MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Military Situation — The situation in southern Beirut "erupted" early on 8 December when U.S. Marines were shelled and retaliated with tank fire and other "appropriate weapons," Beirut radio reported. The fighting came after the security situation deteriorated the previous afternoon, with Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and elsewhere receiving and returning fire, the radio said. Meanwhile, Phalangist militia repulsed a Druze attempt to infiltrate a village in the Al-Kharrub district, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

The Security Arrangements Committee, which was established to consolidate the cease-fire, failed to meet for the fourth consecutive day because of the Amal Movement's boycott of the meetings in protest against recent kidnappings of Shi'ites, according to Beirut radio. The Lebanese Army representative told the radio the committee has lost credibility and effectiveness since its original members ceased attending and sent other representatives, and he added that he will not participate in further meetings until the original delegates resume attendance.

In another development, gunmen kidnapped four editors of *AN-NAHAR* in Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Beirut radio said the four were subsequently released.

U.S. Pilots — Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' announced that the body of the U.S. pilot killed on 4 December has been handed over to the U.S. Government and that the release of the captured pilot "depends on the improvement in U.S.-Syrian relations," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil understands Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's reasons for wanting to resign but asked for "patience" in this regard and insisted that the prime minister and Cabinet remain in office until "national consultations" on the government issue have been held, the Cabinet announced in an official statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Al-Jumayyil said that he will set dates for national consultations soon and briefed the ministers on his recent trip abroad, the statement noted. In another development, Foreign Minister Elie Salim postponed his planned visit to Damascus in order to attend a parliamentary debate on government policy, the radio reported. A special envoy will visit Syria to set a new date for the visit, the radio said.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has approved "most" of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami's plan to evacuate 'Arafat loyalists from Tripoli, AFP reported citing "well-informed sources." The agency noted that 'Arafat continues to have "reservations" about the clause in the plan that provides for a withdrawal of the besieging dissident forces from Tripoli to the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid refugee camps because he feels that leaving the dissidents in control of the camps is tantamount to a unilateral withdrawal of loyalist forces.

Meanwhile, a Greek Government spokesman cited by Athens radio confirmed that 'Arafat's forces are to be evacuated in Greek ships, affirming that at 'Arafat's request the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry chartered four ferries to transport 'Arafat and approximately 4,000 supporters from Tripoli to the YAR and Tunisia. The ships, which will fly Greek and UN flags, were to begin departing Greece for Tripoli on the night of 7 December, the spokesman added.

Syria

Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud arrived in Damascus from Aden and was received by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Damascus radio reported. Meanwhile, Minister of State Faruq ash-Shar' expressed readiness to begin a dialogue with the United States and promised that his country would "positively receive" envoy Donald Rumsfeld, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Ash-Shar' also affirmed that President Hafiz al-Asad has "fully recovered," has begun some physical exercise, and has resumed several of the duties of his office.

Iraq

A military spokesman cited by INA claimed that six Iranian "naval targets" trying to enter the Khowr-e Musa canal were sunk and one fighter was downed in renewed action on 8 December. One Iraqi plane was lost as a result of "technical failure." Iranian media have not yet been heard to report this action.

Iran

Velayati Interview — Iran desires the unity and solidarity of the Palestinian resistance and hopes that the PLO's internal clashes will end so that all weapons can be aimed at the United States and Israel, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview reported by Tehran radio. Speaking in Dhaka, where he is attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference, Velayati also noted that Iran is still opposed to any move to reinstate Egypt and Afghanistan in the Islamic Conference Organization.

Tudeh Trial — At the trial of Tudeh Party members which started on 6 December, former Navy Commander Bahram 'Afzali admitted to spying on behalf of the Soviet Union and declared himself guilty, sinful, and repentant, Tehran radio reported.

OPEC Affairs

The 69th ordinary OPEC conference opened in Geneva on 7 December, OPECNA reported, adding that the main topic of discussion at the conference will be the OPEC Market Monitoring Committee's recommendation that the existing overall production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day and marker price of $29 per barrel be maintained. During the first day's session Libyan Secretary of Oil Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur was elected new OPEC conference president, replacing UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the agency stated.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'Arafat Approves 'Most' of Evacuation Plan

NC072240 Paris AFP in English 2235 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Dec 7 (AFP) — Besieged Palestine Liberation Organization Leader Yasir 'Arafat has approved most of a plan to evacuate his 4,000 troops from here, well-informed sources said Wednesday night. But Mr. 'Arafat was said to have reservations about a clause providing for the besieging dissident Palestinians to withdraw to the Palestinian refugee camps of Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid on this city's outskirts.

He reportedly felt that leaving the Syrian-backed dissidents in control of the camps amounted to unilateral withdrawal of his forces.

The proposed evacuation plan was formulated by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The sources said Mr. 'Arafat would reply to Mr. Karami tomorrow.

Four Ferry Boats To Evacuate PLO Fighters

NC071214 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Following a request from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Deputy Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias — the request was accepted by the Greek Government — the Ministry of Merchant Marine will charter four ferry boats to transport Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to North Yemen and Tunisia. This was stated by the Greek Government spokesman, who added that the ships will fly the flags of Greece and the United Nations and will be under the supervision of UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar.

According to press reports, the total number of Palestinian fighters to be transported is approximately 4,000. According to the same reports, all expenditures will be met by the Palestinians. The first ship to be chartered for this purpose will sail for Lebanon tonight.

Al-Wazir on Departure Talks, PLO Future Plans

GF071956 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Dec 83 pp 1, 22

[Talalal al-'Awadi dispatch]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with *AL-ANBA'* from his residence in Tripoli, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, said that all leading Palestinian institutions, including the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine Central Council, and the PNC, will be invited to convene to make an overall review of the current situation of the Palestinian struggle.

Answering a question on the possibility of the success of dialogue with Jordan based on the Fes summit resolutions and rejections of the Reagan plan, he said: Political moves with all Arab parties will be defined after our arrival in Tunis, which will be the first step after departure to the political leadership headquarters. Our relations with each country will be defined in a way that serves our cause.

Abu Jihad explained to *AL-ANBA'* the recent military and political situation, saying:

On the military level, as always, we have been abiding by the cease-fire and the other points of the agreement, but as usual we are surprised day and night by the shelling of the Syrian forces directed at Ba'l Muhsin, Al-Qubbah, Abu Samra, and At-Tabbanah regions — which are Lebanese regions and we have no presence there — and from Turbul by tanks which direct their fire toward the port in an attempt to damage ships and piers.

The Palestinian official said: While I am talking to you now, they have been firing various weapons for the past 2 hours in an attempt to frighten us and exhaust our forces.

Referring to the political level, Abu Jihad said: The most recent development was the message which was delivered by Yasir 'Arafat to Rashid Karami by a delegated political committee. The message included comprehensive points, asked for the strengthening and affirmation of the cease-fire, and declared our readiness to depart. The message asked Mr Karami to address a number of points which were:

The nature of the security guarantees;

The flag which will be hoisted on the ships;

The security guarantees for the camps and Tripoli;

The withdrawal of Syrian, Libyan, and dissident parties to a distance which ensures the departure of these forces.

He said: This message was handed over the Karami in the hope that he will address certain points, but it was sent long ago and we have yet to receive any response. Although we were asked to deliver this letter within 48 hours, we delivered it within 24 hours.

Abu Jihad said that Yasir 'Arafat called the committee and inquired about the delay in addressing the points we raised, because we have not received any response from him and we are still waiting for a reply.

Referring to Karami's recent statements on all the parties' approval of the withdrawal plan, Abu Jihad said: We have nothing to do with whatever has been announced, since we are still waiting for a response through official channels. Abu 'Ammar was the one who wanted the committee to quickly prepare our official message. We do not deal through statements but through documents.

Asked about moves in the occupied territories after departing Tripoli, Abu Jihad affirmed that the Palestinian leadership will concentrate more on the occupied territories, particularly since our people have made great political and struggle sacrifices. We shall have a big role for our people during the upcoming stage.

Referring to Jordan's call for the revival of the council of deputies, which will include representatives of the two banks of the Jordan River, and its effect on the PLO's representation right, he said: This and other political issues will be studied at length during the Palestinian leadership meetings, whose aims

will be to preserve our people's achievements.

The deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces asserted that all the talk about the establishment of a government-in-exile at this stage is premature.

Answering a question about the U.S. hostilities against the Arab Syrian Army, he said: Brother Abu 'Ammar has stated that we support our brothers in the Arab Syrian Army against the U.S. assault; we stand alongside in the same trench against these hostilities. He asked: What is our Arab nation's stance during these circumstances to confront the U.S.-Israeli assault? Why is everything that is taking place in the Lebanese arena occurring at the same time we are facing the Zionist-imperialist aggression?

Aden VOP Comments on Fatah Differences

GF070630 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is natural for a controversy to occur on the revolution's issues. It is also common for discussion to take place within the revolution on new and other issues which are far from the people's central goals. All this is required at all stages of the national march of the Palestinian people because unanimity on national issues does not mean unanimity on methods of struggle or stands on the best formulas for each stage or on external alliances and relationships.

This is why demands are not an issue which causes worry, even if such demands are clamorous. If all this is natural in any national march of a certain people, it is also quite routine for the Palestinian people's march, which has its own characteristics regarding the Palestinian revolution's internal structure and the cultural and social structure of the Palestinian people. This is why popular Palestinian national circles have not been worried about demanded reforms in the first stage.

Indeed, what concerns the people and revolution circles is how genuine and independent these demands were and how nationally honest they were. More important is the consciousness of those making the demands of the special nature of the Palestinian revolution, a nature which reveals acute awareness of what internal differences will yield from those lurking to strike at the revolution and will yield in internal destruction by circles which have been dreaming for years of abandoning the Palestinian revolution because the revolution contradicts their policies and is continuously embarrassing them on the national and pan-Arab levels.

We can say frankly that many Palestinian circles were convinced of the need to make an overall review after the Beirut battle and viewed the so-called reformatory demands as positive phenomena. But all these circles are worried over the ability of those who make these demands in the internal debate and in their independent moves and the ability of the adversaries and enemies of the Palestinian national struggle to benefit from these moves.

Developments confirm the legitimacy of these reservations and worries. They also confirm that the legitimacy of the goals does not justify differences and conflict at any time or anywhere and also that major national causes are not measured by personal considerations. They confirm that the suffering of any struggle, wherever it might be, is a basic part of its efforts if it does not make mistakes on major issues.

The enemies of reformation are those who boycotted the Fatah Central Council despite the fact that it met in the most appropriate place. They are the ones who shelled the camps and exercised the role of hated occupier, whose practices the masses reject. After all this, there is no doubt about the nature of the adversary agents and their objectives since 1976.

The battle our people are waging is for independent Palestinian decisionmaking, which is the deadliest Palestinian weapon against the enemies and whose efficiency is no longer confined to a geographical location. An inch of land without (?pressures or threats) is the measure; thousands of kilometers of land without strength is nothing. Decisive Palestinian popular loyalty is [word indistinct] and the will of the revolution and the people are most favorable.

A look at Tripoli and its surroundings is sufficient. Palestine is again under siege. Those who are laying the siege on behalf of the Zionist enemy are those who are being condemned, isolated, and [word indistinct].

'Arafat Thanks PLA Officers in Jordan

JN071614 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 7 Dec (PETRA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, sent a letter to Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] in Jordan, and all the PLA officers, NCO's, and soldiers in which he thanked them for their brave stand on the side of the Palestinian revolution and people against the Syrian and Libyan aggression. 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian people will defend their independent decisionmaking and will abort this conspiracy with all their might as they did before with other conspiracies.

He noted in his letter that the Syrian regime has used all types of weapons in its aggression against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in northern Lebanon. He denounced the agent dissidents who are linked to the Syrian and Libyan regimes against their people and revolution.

'Martyr Halim' Group Claims Jerusalem Explosion

JN071605 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1532 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Despite the siege to which our revolution is exposed in northern Lebanon and the attempts to preoccupy it with sideshows away from the Zionist enemy and in the service of enemy plans and security claims, and at a time when the Zionist enemy believes that it is safe and removed from our revolutionaries'

operations as a result of this siege, which is imposed by Syrian and Libyan forces, one of our groups operating in the occupied homeland carried out a heroic operation against the Zionist occupation forces in the heart of the city of Jerusalem. At 1300 yesterday, the Martyr Halim group carried out the operation blowing up a Zionist bus, which was carrying more than 40 Zionist soldiers, with highly explosive charges as it was passing through Herzel Street in the western side of the holy city. The explosion completely destroyed the military bus and killed or wounded all its occupants.

A Zionist military spokesman reported the operation, claiming that the operation lead to the death of only 7 Zionist soldiers and the injury of 46 others, some of them seriously. However, reports from the occupied homeland say that the number of dead among the Zionist soldiers was more than the official figure. News agencies cited eyewitnesses as saying that parts of the bus were thrown more than 100 meters. Moreover, the explosion, which completely destroyed the bus, threw some of the passengers from the windows and doors.

Dissidents Claim Responsibility for Bus Bomb
NC071708 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The (Majid Abu 'Atwah) martyr group blew up a Zionist bus in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The uprising movment has issued the following statement on the operation:

On the basis of our concern with escalating the armed struggle inside the occupied territory against the Zionist aggression, and in harmony with the new revolutionary line laid down by the uprising movement, one of our groups operating inside the occupied territory, the (Majid Abu 'Atwah) martyr group, blew up a bus carrying Zionist passengers in the occupied city of Jerusalem. This incident resulted in the killing of 5 Zionists and the wounding 46 others.

Interior Ministers Conclude Meetings in Iraq
JN071441 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA) — The Arab interior ministers council concluded its second session here today. At the conclusion of their 3-day meetings, the ministers adopted a number of resolutions and recommendations concerning Arab security.

In their statement at the end of their meetings, the Arab interior ministers warned that the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict might mean its expansion, involving other parties. The ministers expressed regret that Iran has failed to respond to international initiatives to resolve the conflict by peaceful means and called upon it to positively respond to these initiatives.

The ministers declared their support for the legitimate rights of Iraq and the Arab nation to their territories and waters and affirmed that aggression against any Arab country is aggression against the Arab nation. They called upon all peace-loving states and international organizations to intensify their efforts to achieve a just and honorable settlement of the conflict guaranteeing the legitimate rights of both sides.

The ministers expressed their desire that relations of neighborliness prevail between Iraq and Iran on the basis of mutual respect, territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and repudiation of the policy of force. They affirmed that the internal and external security of every Arab country is linked to the collective Arab security.

The Arab Interior Ministers Council issued an appeal in which it hailed the Palestinian Arab people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, against Zionism. The council called on all states which are interfering in internal Palestinian affairs to keep their hands off the PLO and its legitimate leadership and let the Palestinian Arab people solve their own internal problems by democratic dialogue through the PLO's legitimate institutions.

In another appeal to Arab governments, the council expressed its sorrow over the incidents and tragedies witnessed by Lebanon. The council called on the Arab governments to back the Lebanese Government in liberating Lebanon, safeguarding its independence, consolidating the unity of its people, and helping it face all those incidents and tragedies.

The council approved in principle the Arab security strategy, which aims to achieve Arab security integration and combat all forms of crimes.

Libyan Minister Chosen OPEC Conference President

LD071047 Vienna OPECNA in English 1555 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Geneva, 7 Dec. 83 (OPECNA) — Outgoing OPEC conference president Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah said here today that the organization's role was as important now as at any time in the past, and he expressed confidence over its future strength and unity. Opening the 69th ordinary meeting of the OPEC conference, Al-'Utaybah, who is United Arab Emirates' minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said that since the last ministerial meeting in July "the oil market has been fluctuating, improving one minute and relaxing the next."

Al-'Utaybah declared: "One fact is very clear, the role of OPEC is as important today as at any time in the past. No doubt this role will continue to be important in the future. The unity of our organization is our strength, and our power is an active organization within the world community depends on our unity."

Al-'Utaybah said that since the London Accord of last March "we have succeeded in implementing the decision on maintaining an overall production ceiling of 17.5 million b/d, representing our national quotas, and defending the benchmark price of 29 dollars per barrel.

"I believe very strongly that we in the organization will continue to defend the unity of the organization and the oil market to the best of our ability, and in the interest not only of our member countries but the world economy."

Al-'Utaybah stated: "No effort will be spared to defend the market on the basis of the decisions we took and will take in future. I am confident we will come out of this conference a stronger OPEC and more determined to stand by our decisions and promises. What we need is to work, so we will work more and talk less."

Libyan secretary of oil Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur was elected new OPEC conference president, with Indonesian mines and energy minister Subroto as alternate president.

On taking over the chair, Al-Maqhur said: "I am happy to be called upon to shoulder the responsibility of heading the organization at such a difficult time. I hope my colleagues will inspire me with the wisdom to serve them and the organization."

He added: "OPEC is an organization of a group of people who are trying to safeguard their interests. They have experienced many difficulties in the past and no doubt will experience many more. In trying to defend themselves and their interests, they have made many enemies who want to destroy them. I will work to defeat our enemies and keep the organization strong."

The conference was adjourned until early this evening.

Yamani Interviewed on Prices, Other Issues

LD071606 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 7 (SPA) — Saudi Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani has dismissed as "rumours" reports that Saudi Arabia has chartered eleven crude carriers to store oil outside the gulf as an emergency measure against a possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz. In an exclusive interview with the Jidda-based *ARAB NEWS*, its sister publication, the London-based *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, on the eve of the upcoming OPEC meeting in Geneva, he said it was time to review the question of differentials. As a first step, the price of the Nigerian crude should be raised by 50 cents. He added that the volume of the Kingdom's production averaged 5.35 million barrels a day in the third quarter.

Yamani outlined OPEC's long-term strategy, whose committee he chairs. The Ministerial Committee met in London last month.

Replying to a question on prospects of an increase on consumption of oil, he said if the recovery in American continues there will be a rise of about two million barrels per day (BPD) in consumption in 1984. "The total increase in the U.S. imports will be over one million BPD, may be 1.2 million BPD. The same is the case with Europe and Japan," he added.

Asked why then the OPEC Monitoring Committee suggested keeping the same old ceiling, he said "our opinion is to work within the existing quotas. If we feel that there will be an increase in quotas, then let us have a meeting and make it legal. But the Monitoring Committee thought that if we increase the quotas if might have a psychological impact on the market and the market will react that there is more than enough supply and therefore they did not want the meeting.

"A meeting of the extraordinary conference should have taken place in September, which did not happen unfortunately and now we see some OPEC countries exceeding their quotas by large amounts which is very annoying especially for us in Saudi Arabia," Yamani said.

Commenting on the possibility of OPEC raising its ceiling he said "no, I think when we meet, our ceiling for the first quarter of the next year should remain 17.5 million BPD, for we don't expect heavy increase in demand."

Referring to any specific ideas from the Kingdom to get OPEC members [to] adhere to the ceiling, he said "Whatever is discussed in OPEC to maintail solidarity among member countries, the Kingdom will endorse and accept such commitments." He expressed hope that other members will restrict themselves and adhere to quotas. "In OPEC, during crisis, we usually come together as one bloc," he added.

Replying to a question whether there was any difference between the new strategy adopted at the ministerial meeting in London and the one he drafted several years ago, Yamani said "There will be a fundamental change in the future strategy. We wrote our previous strategy at a time when there was a shortage in the market. At that time, OPEC was producing 31 billion BPD and was expected to increase that production. Now we will have a long term strategy (LTS) when OPEC is producing nearly 17.5-18 million BPD with a huge surplus capacity and with the world demand not expected to pick up drastically. So we have a different position, a different approach and probably a different mentality," he added.

Referring to the stabilisation of demand, Yamani said "We will be in a position to sit down with consumers and see how we both stabilize the market and prices of oil. I can say there is a growing feeling among the consumers as well as producers for the need to meet and discuss things. And there is some sort of informal contacts to that effect," he added.

Commenting on OPEC relationship with non-OPEC producers, Yamani said "We need a good cooperation and coordination with them. We have proved to everybody it is possible," he added.

Referring to the proposed Iraqi pipeline via Saudi Arabia, he said the Kingdom welcomed the construction of the pipeline. "We are moving in that direction. The king has given his instructions to all the competent authorities in the government to help in that direction. The Iraqis will take care of the financial matters. There are some serious studies on engineering and everything on the pipeline," he added.

Commenting on reports about the Kingdom establishing a Geneva-based marketing company called NORBEC, Yamani said "We issued a statement which is clear enough to answer any question. But it is a temporary thing and it is very useful because it enables us to test the market, know the price trend here and there and for every type of crude."

Rreplying to a question on the possibility of the Kingdom exporting nearly 825,000 BPD of refined products late next year and early 1985 at a time when there will be more than 20 million BPD oversupply in the market, Yamani said he did not agree with this. "We have already been contacted by a large number of international companies trying to buy our products. Our export refineries are the most sophisticated refineries and they use energy at a cheap price and the economies of their these [as received] refineries are much better than the economies of refineries elsewhere."

Commenting on reports that the Kingdom has chartered eleven crude carriers as an emergency measure against a possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz, he said "This is a rumour or at best a distorted fact. We sell our crudes in blend of light, medium and heavy. And when we close some of our fields for maintainance purposes we produce in advance our needs to meet our purpose. It is a routine practice. If it is a question of storing oil outside the gulf, we have that oil and if the situation is that serious, a few charters will not be enought to meet the danger," he added.

Tehran on OPEC Conference Opening; Gharazi Interview

LD072337 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The 69th conference of OPEC oil ministers began its first session at 1545 in Geneva [as heard] behind closed doors. The session was chaired by Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates.

According to a report by a Central News unit correspondent from the conference center, before the formal opening of the conference, Mr Gharazi, our country's oil minister, explained in an interview with newsmen the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on preserving OPEC.

Referring to the question of returning oil prices to $34 a barrel, he said: The question of oil prices is more important to Iran than correcting the quota system for the member countries.

In reply to the question: Which countries support Iran's position on an increase in the oil benchmark price?, he said: Those who think about the interests of the oppressed nations will support this stand.

With regard to reducing the production level of some member countries, Mr Gharazi said: Those who have violated the level set in the London conference must reduce their production level, particularly Saudi Arabia which should have not produced more than 5 million barrels a day.

Meanwhile, REUTER news agency has reported details of remarks by Zaki Yamani, the Saudi regime's oil minister, regarding the stabilization of oil prices. Zaki Yamani, who was the agent of the $5 reduction in the price of a barrel of oil, at the London conference last March, in accordance with America's views, told newsmen today before the opening of the Geneva conference that his country will promise to stabilize oil prices until the end of 1985 at the earliest.

In line with the Saudi Government's policy, which is based on supporting the oil companies and inflicting a loss on the producing countries, Yamani said he was sure oil prices would not change, because even if a majority asked for an increase in oil prices, Saudi Arabia would not increase the price of its oil.

Amir Receives King Fahd's Message

GF071902 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Dec (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The message was conveyed by Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during an audience with the amir in Manama today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Heir Apparent and Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, and Saudi Ambassador in Bahrain Ibrahim al-Qadi.

Following the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told WAKH that he conveyed a message to Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah dealing with current developments in the Middle East, particularly those matters dealing with cooperation among the GCC countries and matters of common interest. He added that he held talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah focusing on current developments in the Arab and Gulf arenas, in addition to all the Arab issues. The Saudi minister stressed his country's continuous efforts to clear up the Arab atmosphere and thus to pave the way for the next Arab summit, which will be held in Riyadh.

The Saudi foreign affairs minister left Manama today for home at the conclusion of his brief visit to Bahrain within a tour of the GCC countries.

KUWAIT

Kuwaiti Amir Receives Al-Asad's Message 7 Dec

JN071307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait — Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah has received a written message from his Brother President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the recent developments in the region in light of the Israeli-U.S. escalation. Dr 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Kuwait, delivered the message when the amir received him today.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Kuwait, Dr Darwish said that his highness the amir asked him to convey greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad, denounced the U.S. attacks on the Syrian forces, expressed solidarity with Syria, and called for a unified Arab stand to confront the common dangers against the Arab nation.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Support for Syria

LD072017 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait 7 Dec (KUNA) — *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said today that the United States cannot turn Syria into an isolated island like Cuba. It added that the Arabs can agree to differ with Syria on many matters, "but in confronting the American-Zionist colonialist alliance there will be no differences."

It said that when the Arabs ask for weapons from any side in the world, they ask for them to repulse aggression committed against them and threats to their destiny and entity. It pointed out that "American sophisticated arms for Israel are the natural and understandable reason why the Arabs in Syria and in other countries seek sophisticated weapons to bolster their strength and steadfastness in confronting the Zionist aggression."

The paper warned Washington against believing the old delusion that "the Arabs are (?geriatrics) and people of the hubble-bubble." It said the Arabs are not, as Mr Shultz thinks, carrying out the orders of their strong ally, "but they have gone to him, no more no less, from the reality and because they want to protect themselves from harm."

It said that the Arabs, whenever weakness and sense of defeat afflict them, arise and unite when one of them displays strength or steadfastness specifically against Israel. It pointed out that Washington, by ignoring this picture, is gambling with its credit in the whole region.

Jordan Supported on Israeli Canal Plan

LD071643 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] United Nations, Dec 7 (KUNA) — Jordan will introduce a draft resolution Wednesday reiterating last year's demand that Israel not build the proposed canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. The Jordanian document, to be introduced in the special political committee, also requests the secretary-general to determine what the adverse affects for Jordan and the occupied territories would be if Israel went ahead with the controversial project. In this connection, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a statement, adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly might require the dispatch of a team of three consultants at a total cost of 50,000 dollars.

The Jordanian draft pointed out that the proposed waterway would violate the rules and principles of international law, especially those relating to fundamental rights and duties of states and to belligerent occupation of land.

The delegate of Kuwait, Jamil al-Hassani, said not only is it illegal for Israel as the occupying power to confiscate private land to execute the project, it is also illegal for "a belligerent occupying state" to have "permanent installation constructed in occupied territories for the benefit of the home economy of the occupying state."

Al-Hassani, speaking before the special political committee, quoted from the Secretary-general's recent report on Israel's decision to build the canal, and the report by the experts attached to it. The Jordanian draft also calls upon all states, specialised agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations not to help in any way in the preparation and execution of the canal project and it urged private and state-owned business firms to do likewise.

In a more general discussion on the canal issue, the Kuwaiti representative said: "so long as the Israelis believe that every inch of Arab Palestine is part and parcel of their so-called eretz (homeland) Israel, they are going to use every trick in the book of deviation, if their was any, and thus violate all international laws, all international norms and all international practices." Al-Hassani said violating all kinds of international law has become so deep-rooted in Israel's international behavior "that it now looks as if this odd behaviour has become an article of faith with the Israelis."

In conclusion, Al-Hassani said: "My delegation would like to express the strong view, coupled with hope, that this will not turn into yet another issue in the long series of issues concerning the Israeli illegal international behavior where the international community would only deplore the Israeli policy or the Israeli practice but nothing effective is done, or even contemplated to stop it."

OMAN

Arab League Secretary Klibi Departs 7 Dec

GF071423 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Arab League Secretary Chedli Klibi left today after a 2-day visit to the Sultanate during which he met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and held talks with Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Arab League secretary was seen off at the airport by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi, under secretary at the Foreign Ministy; 'Abd al-Hafiz Musalam al-Qalami, assistant chief of the protocol affairs department at the Foreign Ministry; Bashir Salim Faraj, assistant director of the Arab Affairs Department of the Arab League; and the Tunisian and Saudi charges d'affaires to the Sultanate.

PDRY

Chairman, Libya's Jallud Review Arab Issues

GF071710 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received Brother Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations. They also reviewed developments in the Arab arena and means of bolstering the unity of the Arab national and progressive powers to confront the increasing dangers stemming from the escalation of the aggressive and conspiratorial activity of the imperialist-Zionist alliance which is anatagonistic to our Arab peoples — foremost of which are the dangers of the new U.S.-Zionist agreement. They also discussed the United States' use of its military forces stationed in Lebanon in direct armed aggression against the fraternal Syrian Army and the fraternal Lebanese people.

Jallud Ends Visit

GF071930 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the historical command of the 1 September Revolution of the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Aden today at the conclusion of a brief visit to our country during which he held discussions with party and state leaders on bilateral relations and Arab and international matters.

Chairman on Oil Exploration, U.S. Threat

GF071630 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, noted that the good life which our people in the southern part of the homeland live under the revolution greatly contrasts with the retarded situation which our people suffered from due to imperialist control when there was humiliation, exploitation, and isolation.

In a comprehensive interview he gave to the weekly magazine *AL-AMAL*, which is issued in the northern part of the homeland, on the 16th anniversary of national independence, he answered a question about efforts being exerted to explore and extract petroleum. He noted that the state pays close attention to the exploration of petroleum and minerals in the republic and that petroleum has been discovered in Ash-Sharmah. He pointed out that the friendly Soviets are aiding in efforts to explore for petroleum and minerals and that there are positive signs with regard to petroleum and gold. He indicated that the state lays great hopes on activities in this field.

Asked about the expansion of imperialist trends in the Arab homeland under U.S. leadership, he expounded on the dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught designed to restore imperialist hegemony in the Arab region, which has become clearer through the maneuvers and provocative military moves that affect the security and stability of the Arab peoples. He called for uniting the efforts of the Arab peoples and for bolstering their struggle to confront this antagonistic onslaught and to firmly confront the U.S.-Zionist influence.

QATAR

Amir Receives Message From King Fahd

GF071210 Doha QNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 7 Dec (QNA) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message was delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his meeting with the amir this afternoon. The meeting was

attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kawwari, Qatari information minister; and 'Abd al-Muhsin Sulayman az-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to Qatar.

QNA has learned that the message deals with the current Arab situation in general and with the situation in the region in particular within the framework of the continuing contacts and consultations among the GCC states.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ Criticial of Raid on Syrian Positions

PM071327 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 5 Dec 83 p 3

[Unattributed "Observer's View" column: "Peace on a Volcano"]

[Excerpt] The Middle East is fraught with many grave events and developments that adversely affect the whole situation in the area and drag it into a vicious circle of violence and conflict between the superpowers.

The serious military escalation caused by the U.S. air strikes on the Syrian forces' positions in which two U.S. aircraft were shot down turns the area into a volcano that is likely to explode at any moment.

The U.S. military escalation against the Syrian forces is of great significance and should be carefully and thoroughly considered because the continuation of this escalation could lead to a U.S.-Soviet confrontation that would lend to the conflict an international dimension harmful to the security and stability of the area.

The escalation will directly affect Lebanon and its fate, which is at the heart of the conflict. It will close the door and frustrate the efforts being made to end the crisis of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and to bolster its independence, stability, and sovereignty.

The U.S. raid against the Syrian positions in Lebanon raises doubts about the credibility of U.S. peace efforts in the area because this U.S. measure does not square with the claim by President Reagan's administration that it is seeking to establish peace.

The raid surprised political observers because it came only 1 day after hints in Washington about satisfaction with the Syrian stand toward the Lebanese crisis and talk about flexibility in the Syrian attitude.

This U.S. action not only undermines belief that the United States is seeking to establish peace but also raises doubts about Washington's ability to honor its pledges and meet its obligations in the area. It also raises doubts about the integrity of its role as a superpower shouldering great responsibility for the preservation of world peace and stability.

This action by the United States will encourage Israel to step up its aggression against the Arab nation and usurp more Arab rights. It will also generate violence and encourage extremism in the area.

Washington must realize that such actions also threaten U.S. interests and cause great harm to them. We believe that the critical period through which the Middle East is passing cannot tolerate such military escalation and thus there is a need for self-restraint and practical consideration of the serious dangers that such actions could lead to.

But there is now an even more urgent need for the adoption of specific and clear stands toward the crisis of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Is U.S. policy working for peace or for Israel?

AL-JAZIRAH: U.S.-Israeli Pact Setback to Peace

PM071531 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 2 Dec 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Yes, It Is a Setback"]

[Excerpts] In his first visit to Washington since he was elected to succeed former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Yitzhaq Shamir succeeded in persuading President Reagan's administration to conclude a new military pact between Israel and the United States, the first of its kind since the strategic political and military alliance between the United States and Israel was announced 2 years ago in order to confront so-called Soviet expansion in the Middle East.

The Best evaluation of the new U.S.-Israeli military pact came in the statement by Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, his majesty's ambassador in Washington, which said: "The new U.S.-Israeli agreement is a setback to peace in the Middle East."

This simply and clearly means that Israel becomes more desirous of aggression and more covetous of Arab rights and land when it obtains large-scale military and economic support from the United States and when it enjoys U.S. backing in international organizations such as the United Nations and the Security Council — backing that protects it against any sanctions the world community may impose on Israel because of its aggression against the Arabs.

Given the size of its population and its economic and military strength, Israel is far too small to protect itself, let alone commit aggression against others, if it ever loses U.S. support and backing. Without this backing and support it would not have been able to occupy a single inch of Arab land.

The question which we are at a loss to answer in order to understand U.S. political thinking in the Middle East is: How does the United States benefit from the aggression which Israel launches against an Arab state and in which it occupies more Arab land and usurps more Arab rights? What real interest does the United States have in these continuing Israeli attacks on the Arab countries and peoples?

Under no circumstances can Israel be a substitute for U.S. friends and allies in protecting and defending the vital and extensive U.S. interests in the Middle East and other strategic areas. Unfortunately, this political view of the Israeli role with regard to the U.S. interests is one of the biggest and most dangerous mistakes of the U.S. political strategy in the area.

There can be no doubt that the recent U.S.-Israeli military agreement is the fruit of all those mistakes of the U.S. political strategy in the Middle East. This agreement will in no way and under no circumstances contribute to giving momentum to international peace efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. Rather, as his Highness Prince Bandar said, it is a serious setback for peace in the Middle East. It could also be a new factor tempting Israel to launch new military aggression against an Arab state or several Arab states since it has been able to make the world's biggest economic and military power go along with its stand and give it unlimited protection from any Arab or international punishment.

The United States, by virtue of its international status, will be responsible for any foolish action that Israel may well take in order to test the new agreement in practice — even if this involves the United States in this expected Israeli foolishness.

Commentary on Vance View of U.S.-Israeli Ties
LD072323 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has said that American-Israeli strategic cooperation will have grave consequences on efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. When an American official says that grave consequences are bound to appear on the Arab-Israeli scene because both Israel and the United States feel that force and military superiority cannot but impose military domination over other peoples, this means that security will not be preserved for a long time.

Such an utterance emphasizes the fact that disappointment over the recent changes in the American attitude toward the Arab-Israeli conflict has justification, not from the point of view that it is a fact that the United States has a role to play in finding a formula for a lasting and just peace, but from the premise that when it wanted to have a role in the search for such a formula Washington was anxious that its position would be more neutral at least in the domain of political moves. Hence the impression recently left in the Arab world by the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv: disappointment at the credibility of the moral commitment to a problem which, by remaining unresolved, constitutes a danger to the region of the conflict. This is due to a disregard for the key element of the issue, that is, the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO.

For this reason the statement by former Secretary of State Vance at a conference in Tel Aviv University last night that the United States and Israel jeopardized their deep friendship by expressing it with military ties, the fact that the former American secretary of state touched upon the Israeli settlement policy in the Arab occupied lands, and his description of this policy as a gradual action toward annexation that has long-term consequences, all this reflects a growing American sense of repugnance of Israel's practices which, the Americans believe, now constitute a threat to the national interests of the American people. Hence the feeling of the former Secretary of State that the American-Israeli strategic cooperation is fraught with consequences. His feeling was right from the point of view of experience and with regard to the Israeli spirit of blackmail.

Prince Nayif on Baghdad Meeting Resolutions
LD080026 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 7, SPA — Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz returned home tonight from Baghdad after attending the second session of Arab interior ministers which was concluded in the Iraqi capital earlier today. He was received at the airport by Prince Ahmad, the deputy interior minister and a number of officials.

On arrival Prince Nayif told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY that resolutions adopted by the second session were put into effect immediately. He said the resolutions deal with security fields and described them as "good." "The ministerial council has initially endorsed the security strategy and the council will study it in depth during the current year for its prsentation in the third session of the council," Prince Nayif said. Prince Nayif hoped that the council's resolutions would have positive results on security in the Arab region.

Prince Nayif in a statement earlier today in Baghdad said the big part of the joint Arab security agreement was carried out. He said the Kingdom's efforts to carry out the agreement throughout the Arab world was not enough and called for joint action to bring to life all resolutions and agreements concerning security.

Niger President Describes Talks, Departs
LD081051 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Jidda, 8 Dece (SPA) — Seyni Kountche, president of the Republic of Niger, left Jidda today at the end of his visit to the Kingdom during which he met with King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and performed a minor pilgrimage. Before departure President Kountche described his talks with King Fahd as fruitful and having dealt with bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. He said the Kingdom's relations with his country are good and progressing for the well-being of the two friendly countries and peoples.

YAR

PDRY Foreign Minister Leaves for Aden

GF071858 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, the foreign affairs minister in the southern part of the homeland, left Ta'izz today for Aden after paying a brief visit during which he conveyed a message from 'ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, dealing with consultation and coordination and on current Arab and international matters. Dr ad-Dali stated that he carries a reply message from the president leader and the secretary general of the general people's congress to his Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Upon departure, he was seen off by Brother Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser on unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee.

Embassy Condemns U.S. Air Raid in Lebanon

NC072308 Cairo MENA in English 1944 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 7 (MENA) — North Yemen today condemned the American raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon on Sunday and expressed deep concern over this new Middle East development. In a statement released by its Beirut Embassy, the North Yemeni government said the American-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement would destabilize conditions in the Middle East and encourage Israel to continue usurping Palestinian and other Arab lands and to continue occupying Lebanon. The statement called for Arab solidarity to face up to the acts of aggression on the Arab countries and to take a firm stand against the new strategic accord.

Mubarak Receives Message From U.S. President

NC071301 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak said today that he has received a message from the U.S. President in reply to President Mubarak's message to the U.S. President on 26 November. President Mubarak said: We will be waiting for [another] message which will be brought by President Reagan's personal envoy during his visit to Cairo in the next few days. Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, has stated: Egypt continues to study the situation from all aspects to obtain information, whether through contacts with the parties concerned or by watching the situation on the spot, as this would enable us to have a better viewpoint when the U.S. envoy arrived in Cairo.

Dr Usamah al-Baz affirmed that Egypt is interested in defending peace in the region, eliminating the ghost of war, bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, achieving progress in the Palestinian cause, and setting up a Palestinian rule in the West Bank and Gaza. Dr Usamah al-Baz asserted that Egypt hopes that the cooperation between Israel and the United States will not constitute a threat to Arab strategic interests. On his meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in Washington, Dr al-Baz said that he had been acquainted with the outcome of the talks between the Lebanese president and the U.S. officials, the steps that could be made in the coming months regarding Lebanon's stability, and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon within a reasonable period of time.

Report on Reagan Message

NC071503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA) — MENA has learned that in his message to President Husni Mubarak, U.S. President Ronald Reagan affirmed that the U.S. Middle East policy will not change and that the United States still supports the Camp David accords and President Reagan's peace initiative. The message pointed out that a special relationship exists between the United States and Egypt, and that the United States maintains special relations with many other states, such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco. The message explains that U.S. policy is seeking to facilitate the process of national reconciliation in Lebanon, and supports and demands the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Lebanese territory. President Reagan's message to President Mubarak also affirmed that there is nothing new in U.S.-Israeli relations following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent visit to Washington.

The message also points out that this visit strengthened the bilateral relations between the United States and Israel, but it did not detract in any way from other U.S. commitments in the region, foremost of which are the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. President Reagan explains in his message that the United States emphasized to Yitzhaq Shamir, during his recent visit to Washington,the importance of U.S. interests in the region and the existence of special relations between the United States and Egypt, and between the United States and Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and that they are an important part of U.S. relations with the area. Regarding the U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon, the message affirmed that the U.S. response was not the result of Shamir's visit to Washington, that the United States aims at establishing stability in Lebanon, and that it also intends to show self-restraint. It is known that President Husni Mubarak had sent a message to President Reagan in which he asked him to show self-restraint.

Mubarak Receives New U.S. Ambassador

NC071332 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak at noon today held a 1-hour meeting with the new U.S. Ambassador [Nicholas A. Veliotes] in Cairo. The meeting was held at the end of the presentation of the U.S. ambassador's credentials at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah.

Consequences of U.S.-Israeli Agreement Viewed

NC071540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 83

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Why Egypt Feels That the U.S.-Israeli Agreement Is an Obstacle on the Path of Peace"]

[Text] Since the October 1973 war drew to a close, and until last week, the United States eagerly presented itself to the Arab states as playing the role of peacemaker between these states and Israel. The Arabs became convinced of the U.S. ability to play this role, having assumed that U.S. policy was capable of striking a balance between Arab rights and the U.S. commitment to the survival and security of Israel. Since that date, Arab diplomacy has accepted a procedural formula of cooperating with the U.S. peacemaker role and developing Arab-U.S. friendship, so long as the U.S. commitment to Israel does not transgress the pre-1967 war Israeli border or, in other words, so long as the U.S. commitment does not entail enabling Israeli to continue with its occupation of Arab territory and its usurpation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Last week, as is known, it was announced that the United States had reached an agreement with Israel on political and strategic cooperation. It was officially said in Washington: This agreement is directed against Soviet influence in the Middle East. If policymakers have not forgotten, the Middle East — where Israel would resist Soviet influence — is entirely composed of the Arab states. And, despite their varying degrees of friendship with the United States, these states have felt a great degree of annoyance over the U.S.-Israeli agreement. This is because — even if the intention is sincere that this agreement is directed against Soviet influence — this agreement, when implemented, cannot heed a dividing line between the thing called Soviet influence and Arab resistance to the aggressiveness and expansionism of Israeli policy. Even more, the Israeli-U.S. agreement on political and strategic cooperation will produce nothing other than increased Israeli military superiority. In this

instance, who can guarantee that Israel will not use this superiority in serving its own ends in the Arab area?

All these things have happened at a time, as Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, has put it, when Israel made no pledges that would serve the cause of peace. Israel even now does not hide behind any vague terms concerning its plan to annex the occupied West Bank and the Gaza sector, after Israel has annexed the Golan and after it has — through invasion — wrested an agreement that guarantees its military occupation of southern Lebanon. The U.S. commitment to Israel now goes beyond the balanced formula that the Arabs had accepted and on whose bases the Arabs had agreed to cooperate with the U.S. peacemaker role. As we have said, this formula assumed Washington's ability to preserve the friendship of the Arab states, provided that the U.S. commitment would not enable Israel to continue to occupy the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and Lebanon, and to continue to usurp the Palestinians' rights. Within this context, and despite the U.S. clarifications, Egypt feels that the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement will place a new obstacle on the path of peace and will entail U.S. total partiality to one of the two parties to the Middle East conflict.

AL-AHRAM Comments on U.S.-Israeli Agreement

NC080908 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 8 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Background," *AL-AHRAM* says: The suspension of fighting around Tripoli gives observers a chance to consider the situation. 'Arafat is awaiting his departure plan, and the dissident and Syrian forces are waiting for the developments in Al-Asad's health pending — perhaps — Damascus' final word, which will settle the situation by either a decisive battle, a halt in fighting, or a withdrawal.

The paper notes: What is striking is that, apart from the fragile cease-fire that is controlled by hands other than those concerned, the sole formula that has so far been proposed is the one related to the U.S.-Israeli agreement, which certainly involves Lebanon, whether wholly or partly. The background of this formula gives the interested observer an opportunity to conduct an in-depth study of the political reality in the Middle East. This reality is replete with contradictions and is sometimes incomprehensible even through logic or clear thinking.

The paper expresses surprise because it was Israel that had categorically and irrevocably rejected the initiative that the U.S. President had embarked upon as a practical means of applying the principle of being a full partner in establishing peace. The Arabs' hesitation in accepting this initiative did in fact contribute toward tipping the scale in favor of Israel, which had invaded Lebanon and had created the ongoing situation there. Consequently, we see the Reagan government present the latest agreement to Israel on a silver platter. This agreement involves concessions that Washington had never made to any state since World War II. The paper adds: Some Arabs are hesitant to take an independent position such as Israel's on the Reagan initiative lest they anger their Soviet allies.

Joint Statement Issued on Kountche Visit

NC071650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA) — Egypt and Niger have emphasized their support for Arab rights and, particularly, for the rights of the Palestinian people who are struggling under the leadership of their sole representative, the PLO. The two heads of state have expressed their conviction that the Palestinian people's unity and Arab solidarity are regarded as an essential ingredient in the defense of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The above stances are cited in the joint statement that was issued today in Cairo and Niamey on the conclusion of the state visit to Egypt by President Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of the State of Niger. The visit was made during the period from 3 to 6 December. The following is the text of the joint statement:

In response to the invitation extended by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of the State of Niger, made a state visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during the period from 3 to 6 December 1983.

President Kountche was accompanied on this visit by Mrs Kountche and by a high echelon delegation. During his stay in Egypt, President Seyni Kountche visited the area around the Sphinx, the pyramids, the unknown soldier mausoleum, the Muhammad 'Ali Mosque, the Al-Jawharah Palace, the Suez Canal Authority, and the Martyr Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel. President Seyni Kountche also laid a wreath on the tomb of departed President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The two presidents held extremely fruitful discussions that dealt with the two countries' bilateral relations and with the international situation. The two presidents noted with complete gratification the important evolution of cooperation existing between the two countries. Furthermore, the two presidents have taken measures that guarantee the bolstering and the widening of this cooperation to achieve the sublime interests of their two peoples. The two presidents have stressed, in particular, the need for developing the trade exchange between the two countries and for increasing economic cooperation between them.

In this respect, the two presidents have decided to form a major and joint Egyptian-Niger committee for cooperation. This committee is entrusted with formulating programs and with following up their implementation within the framework of joint cooperation.

Upon examining African issues, the two presidents determined that dialogue and the quest for peaceful solutions to differences are regarded as the prerequisites for achieving security and peace, as well as economic evolution in the continent. Therefore, the two presidents have reaffirmed their determination to preserve the OAU, as well as their adherence to the OAU's principles and sublime values. In this connection, the two presidents expressed their belief that settlement of the Chadian issue absolutely includes the preservation of Chad's territorial unity, the achievement of national conciliation, and the guaranteeing of the nonexistence of foreign interference. With regard to Western Sahara, the two presidents have expressed their hope that this conflict will be resolved in the immediate future within the OAU

framework and in accordance with OAU principles and resolutions, particularly in accordance with the resolution that was passed by the OAU 19th summit conference that convened in Addis Ababa.

The two presidents focused their attention on the Middle East situation. On this occasion, they reaffirmed their support for Arab rights, particularly for the rights of the Palestinian people who are struggling under the leadership of their sole representative, the PLO. The two presidents expressed their conviction that the Palestinian people's unity and Arab solidarity are regarded as an essential ingredient in the defense of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The two presidents noticed that their viewpoints are identical to a large extent on the international issues that have been discussed, particularly with regard to the issues of Chad, Namibia, the Middle East, and the Western Sahara. From this premise, the two presidents have agreed on increasing consultations between the two states, whether on the bilateral level or through the international forums, for the purpose of cooperating in creating a world filled with peace and justice.

President Seyni Kountche expressed his thanks for, and appreciation of, the hospitality that has been accorded him and the delegation accompanying him in the Arab Republic of Egypt. President Kountche has extended an invitation to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to make a state visit to Niger. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has gladly accepted this invitation and it has been agreed that a date will be set for the visit through diplomatic channels.

Ghali Meets With PRC National Council Visitors

NC071413 Cairo MENA in English 1344 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 7 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali conferred today with Deputy Speaker of the Chinese National Consultative Council Zhao Hua and his accompanying delegation on Egypt's diplomatic drive, which aims at reaching peace in Lebanon and the Middle East and halting the Iraq-Iran war. Dr Ghali also said that peace is Egypt's main goal, so the people of the area will be able to direct all their efforts to economic development and progress. Meanwhile, the Chinese delegation lauded Egypt's positive role in supporting the Palestinian people's efforts to restore their rights and in consolidating the Nonaligned Movement and world peace. The Chinese delegation had arrived here on Sunday for a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation of Ash-Shura Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim.

Consultative Council Committee Meets PRC Group

NC072215 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA) — The Consultative Council's Committee for Arab Affairs, Foreign Relations, and National Security today held a meeting with the PRC National Political Consultative Council Delegation led by Council Deputy Speaker Zhao Hua. During the meeting, a review was made of the various issues that concern the two countries, particularly the present situation in the Middle East. The PRC delegation emphasized the importance of establishing peace in the Middle East and acknowleging the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Wajih ad-Dali, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee, welcomed the delegation and referred to the importance of strengthening the ties of friendship between the two countries. He also lauded the PRC's stand in supporting liberation movements and its complete understanding of Egypt's policy which is aimed at the establishment of peace in the world, particularly in the Middle East, and the acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Economic Talks With FRG Begin in Cairo 7 Dec

NC071407 Cairo MENA in English 1338 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Dec 7 (MENA) — Egypt's economy enjoys at present a stability that helped attract further investments especially those of the private sector. The capital of ventures implemented from September 82 to September 83 amounted to 2,300 million pounds, Dr. Wajih Shindi, minister of investment affairs and international cooperation said today. Addressing the inaugural session of the Egypt-German Council for Economic Cooperation Dr Shindi said that for the first time, West German investments come third in Egypt after Arab and American investments. Egypt and the Federal Republic of Germany agreed on implementing 81 joint projects at a cost of 230 million pounds to which FRG contributes 674 million Deutsche marks, he added. Dr Shindi pinpointed the importance of the Egyptian market for foreign investments especially following the recent developments in Egyptian-Arab relations, the increased Egyptian exports to the Arab states, and the expansion of the Egyptian market following the integration with Sudan.

FRG Ambassador here, Kurt Muller, then took the floor and hailed the strong political and economic relations between Cairo and Bonn. Muller said the main cause behind the increased volume of economic cooperation between the two countries was the stability enjoyed by Egypt either at the home or the foreign levels, in addition to its large monetary budget. He also praised the Egyptian Government's efforts towards rectifying the economic course which will lead to more agricultural and industrial production. The German ambassador said that German investments in Egypt reached DM 667. The federal government also agreed recently to extend to Egypt a DM 250 million loan at an interest rate of less than one per cent, to be refunded. During the two-day meetings, the ministers of economy, tourism, military production, and agriculture will meet with businessmen representing more than 13 West German firms.

Italian Industry Minister Arrives in Cairo 7 Dec

NC072032 Cairo MENA in English 2015 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 7 (MENA) — Italian Minister of Industry Renato Altissimo, who arrived here today, will have talks tomorrow with Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din in Hilal, deputy premier for production and state minister for oil, and Muhammad al-Gharuri, minister of industry, on means of promoting cooperation between Egypt and Italy in the fields of industry and energy. Altissimo told MENA that his talks with Hilal and al-Gharuri will deal

with cooperation in the fields of industry, particularly transport, railways, chemicals, fertlizer, and the use of nuclear power in generating electricity. An Italian Embassy official said that the visit of Altissimo and his accompanying large delegation of industrialists comes in the framework of the close industrial and power cooperation between the two countries.

Cairo Palestine Radio on Jerusalem Bus Explosion

NC081051 Cairo Palestine Radio in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Dec 83

["Palestinian Popular Talk" by Mazin ash-Shawwa]

[Text] Four persons were killed and 40 others were wounded, some very seriously, in an explosion in a bus in occupied Jerusalem. Israeli sources admitted that it was the biggest explosion in Jerusalem in several years. In Tripoli, the PLO claimed responsibility for the operation. A Palestinian military spokesman said a Palestinian resistance unit in the occupied territory carried out the operation. WAFA said more than 40 Israeli soldiers were killed in the explosion of the Israeli military bus, which was completely destroyed. The explosion also wounded passengers of another bus, which had stopped behind the first bus. News agencies said the Israeli authorities launched a wide-scale arrest campaign among Palestinian Arabs. Reporting from Tel Aviv, the agencies said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has threatened to adopt the harshest measures.

This operation, which the Palestinian revolution has very successfully carried out against an Israeli military target, reflects several facts:

1. The operation proves that, despite its preoccupation with its armed conflicts and its exposure to a serious challenge, the Palestinian revolution wants to prove to its enemies and friends and to the entire world that it is still strong and capable of dealing effective and painful blows to the enemy.

2. It proves that in choosing an Israeli military bus carrying Israeli soldiers — who practice all types of coercion, torture, and terrorism — as its target, the Palestinian revolution asserts to the world the Palestinian people's nobility and proves that they are a civilized people committed to all international laws, charters, and norms. They do not attack helpless civilians or kill women, children, and the elderly. They deal their blows to soldiers, who practice violence and terrorism against our gentle people. On the other hand, the Israeli forces show no mercy to our women, children, or elderly.

3. Through this operation, the Palestinian resistance wants to tell the world that the Palestinian people's rights are being usurped, that the Palestinian people continue to adhere to their rights, and that they are compelled to fight to regain these rights and to defend them. The Palestinian resistance wants to say that our Palestinian people are still prepared to make sacrifices.

4. As for the Israeli reaction to the operation, it is necessary to remind the Israelis that violence only breeds more violence and that emotionalism does not solve the problem or stop the resistance operations. Only recourse to reason and logic and resorting to fairness and justice will guarantee the safety of all. Fairness and justice demand the restoration of rights and the undoing of injustice. The insistence on usurping others' rights will in no way facilitate the solution to problems or the end to the conflict. The continued feeling of injustice will lead to the continuation of tension.

Spokesman Claims Six Iranian Naval Targets Hit

JN081205 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1132 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes supported by naval units destroyed six Iranian naval targets which were trying to enter the Khowr-e Musa canal northeast of the Arab Gulf this morning. An Iranian fighter plane was shot down in the same area. This was stated to INA by an Iraqi military spokesman. He said a number of Iranian naval targets were seen trying to enter the Khowr-e Musa canal, but the Iraqi Air Force planes and naval units attacked them and destroyed six naval targets which were seen on fire with columns of smoke rising from them before they sank into Gulf waters. The spokesman said that the rest of the enemy naval targets fled in panic and confusion toward Bandar-e Deylam.

The spokesman also said that the Iranian side was forced to send a number of its fighter planes to the area. The enemy planes were confronted by the Iraqi Air Forces fighter planes. During the clash with them in a dogfight, one enemy fighter plane was downed. It was seen exploding in the air. The spokesman said that all our fighter planes and naval units returned safely to base with the exception of one plane which crashedin Gulf waters due to technical failure. The spokesman held the Iranian side responsible for the safety of the Iraqi pilot. He warned that the Iraqi air and naval forces are capable of destroying any target that may enter the prohibited zone in the Arab Gulf as defined in previous Iraqi communiques.

Communique No 1,303 on 6-7 Dec War Operations

JN071740 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,303 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

In order to keep Iraq proud and lofty, and in order to keep its flag flying high, our valiant Armed Forces continue their victorious activities against the racist Iranian regime's aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant forward units noticed an enemy troop concentration and several excavators opposite their positions in the area east of Basra. Our units pounded the enemy with various weapons and scored powerful and effective hits killing or wounding several enemy members and destroying four excavators. In other areas of the same sector, our units' capable artillery pounded the enemy's artillery positions and hardware stockpiles scoring direct and effective hits.

2. The Iraqi forward units opened fire on the Iranian forces in the central and southern sectors of the theater of operations killing several enemy soldiers and destroying four excavators, two observation posts, and several weapon and infantry emplacements.

3. To escape the terrorism of the criminal rulers of Iran, a new group of Iranians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear of the battlefield. In another area of the aforementioned sector, a hostile vehicle was destroyed and a number of serviceable weapons and equipment were captured.

4. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The suspect Khomeyniite clique's artillery last night and today shelled the city of Mandali and its suburbs damaging a number of civilian installations there.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 December 1983.

Saddam Husayn Stresses Unity in Message to ICO

JN071218 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, 7 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has reiterated Iraq's desire that disputes among ICO countries be settled through peaceful means, that the binding principle of arbitration to halt the fighting between Iraq and Iran be accepted, and that normal relations between the two neighbor countries be established. In a message of greetings to the ICO Foreign Ministers' Conference currently convening in Dhaka read today by Hamid 'Alwan, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, President Saddam Husayn said that the Iranian side is responsible for the prolongation of the war and for all the victims and the destruction resulting from this war. President Saddam Husayn added that the serious stage through which the Islamic world is passing dictates that all of us must shoulder responsibilities commensurate with the threats because the Zionist scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause has reached one of its most dangerous stages and the Zionist enemy is pursuing its attempts to wipe out the resistance of the Palestinian people under the PLO's legitimate command, completeing the measures aiming at eliminating Palestinian presence in the occupied Palestinian territories, and violating Islamic holy places. At the same time, the Zionist enemy is achieving its historical designs of expansion in Lebanon by occupying its southern part. It is regrettable that this is accompanied by attempts in the Lebanese arena to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to independent decision-making after Zionism had failed to achieve this. President Saddam Husayn stressed that all this would not have taken place had there not been division, dispute, and differences among the brothers and had the war between Iran and Iraq which is exhausting the potentials of the Islamic world not continued.

ATH-THAWRAH on U.S.-Israeli Pact, Pan-Arab Action

JN061828 Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Falah al-'Ammari: "In Light of the Reagan-Shamir Agreement: The Only Way To Achieve Strategic Balance in the Region"]

[Text] There is a viewpoint, which we believe to be wrong, that has been frequently discussed in official Arab circles and by Arab media. It is based on the possibility of U.S. neutrality toward the Arab-Zionist conflict, or even the possibility of U.S. pressure on

the Zionist entity if the Arabs agree to play the role of partner in efforts to realize what they call a just settlement of the Arab region's crisis.

Under this cover, the United States has been able to blackmail many Arab positions in order to expand its influence in the region, and to persuade some Arab regimes to make many compromises in the interest of the Zionist enemy without any notable return, despite strategic U.S. gains through the development of events in the Lebanese arena. It has been objectively confirmed that the U.S. will is a permanent strategic ally to the Zionist entity — regardless of the way this administration works and the change of its presidents, and regardless of who presides over the Zionist entity's government.

Within this context, the strategic cooperation agreement that Reagan and Shamir reached during their recent talks in Washington has come as a firm signal that the U.S. bias toward the Zionist enemy and against the Arab nation has begun to expand and deepen in a manner that has finally undermined any possibility of seeking U.S. help in realizing a just settlement. We can go beyond that and say that the Reagan-Shamir agreement has opened the door for new aggressive military operations in the region. In other words, the United States has become a direct and overt partner of the Zionist enemy in any forthcoming aggression against the Arab nation. On a practical level, this means that the recent agreement has objectively canceled Reagan's initiative, which some people considered as a sign of flexibility in the U.S. position toward some aspects of Arab rights in the region's crisis, and has now turned the United States into an explicit enemy of the Arab nation and not merely an ally supporting our Zionist enemy.

The agreement that Yitzhaq Shamir reached during his talks with Reagan is not merely a general agreement of solidarity. It contains a number of details that emphasize creating a comprehensive aggressive alliance against the Arab nation. Among these details are holding joint military maneuvers for the air and naval forces; an earnest participation in security planning, including the exchange of intelligence information; cooperation and coordination, and the exchange of information between the intelligence organs; the U.S. forces' use of the Zionist military bases in occupied Palestine; storing U.S. military and medical equipment in the Zionist entity; using more U.S. investments to develop the Zionist war products, and allowing these products to be marketed in Latin American and African countries and other countries that have been monopolized markets for the United States' export of weapons. Thus, it has been reaffirmed that the United States is a permanent ally of the Zionist enemy, and that it is not qualified under any criteria to be a friend of the Arabs or even a neutral party that can be dealt with in accordance with objective and equal methods.

The obvious fact in all of this is that the strategic balance in the region will be subjected to more upset as a result of the aggressive, dangerous agreement. In light of the suspect Iranian regime's insistence on prolonging the aggressive war against our country, and as a natural result of the treacherous, destructive behavior of the regime of treason in Damascus and the Al-Qadhdhafi regime in Libya, this upset is likely to continue and expand in a very serious manner — especially after splitting the PLO and stepping up the military siege of its legitimate leadership by the Syrian and Libyan regimes' forces.

Any attempt to achieve an effective strategic balance in the Arab region will never be earnest and fruitful unless all Arab positions and policies are reconsidered and reformulated in accordance with strategic pan-Arab principles in a way that will restrain conspiratorial behavior and treacherous trends, which weaken Arab solidarity and steadfastness. Naturally, this dream and hope will remain merely a mirage in the absence of a unified Arab strategy and an agreement on the minimum required to reinforce our Pan-Arab security against the joint challenges.

Minister on Increased Oil Flow Through Turkey

JN070915 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA) — It was announced here today that from Saturday, the capacity for exporting oil through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline will be increased to 900,000 barrels per day [BPD].

This came in a statement by Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today. The Iraqi oil minister added that the 900,000 barrel capacity is part of the first stage of expanding the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline and that the second stage will be completed by April next year when the pipeline's capacity will become more than 1 million BPD.

Qasim Ahmad Taqi added: From a technical point of view Iraq could resume exporting its oil from southern Iraqi ports through the Strait of Hormuz within a period not exceeding a few months if the Iranian regime were willing to abide by the principle of free navigation for all parties.

The Iraqi oil minister explained that an Iraqi-Turkish technical committee was formed to invite several international consultancy firms to prepare technical studies on the feasibility of a 3 million tonnes a year Iraqi-Turkish gas pipeline, the implementation of which would begin next March.

Iraq and Turkey had signed a preliminary agreement for the installation of a pipeline to be used for exporting liquified gas to Turkey and from there to other countries.

Ramadan Receives Hungarian Parliamentarians

JN071040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Janos Peter, vice president of the Hungarian National Assembly, and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and expressed complete satisfaction with their progress and expansion of cooperation in all spheres. They also stressed the importance of continuing to exchange visits to promote relations of friendship and cooperation in a manner in harmony with the desire of both countries' officials and with the many opportunities that are available to serve the two friendly peoples' interests.

The two sides also reviewed the most important Arab and international issues of mutual interest, particularly the Iraqi- Iranian war, what is taking place in Lebanon, and the conspiracies against the Palestinian resistance.

Taha Yasin Ramadan explained the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its political, military, and economic aspects, stressing that Iraq under President Saddam Husayn has always been eager to stop the war and establish peace and that this eagerness is substantiated by Iraq's positive stands and successive initiatives as well as its commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions and its cooperation with all the good offices which are seeking to achieve peace.

Ramadan also stressed that the Iraqi Armed Forces are fully prepared to foil and destroy any offensive the Iranian enemy may seek to carry out.

Janos Peter admired Iraq's progress despite the war circumstances and stressed that the Hungarian political leadership highly values Iraq's peace initiatives and stands which stem from Iraq's humanitarian principles and praises the Iraqi people's capability in defending and building their country.

King Husayn Confers With U.S. Delegation

JN071901 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace this evening a U.S. House of Representatives delegation. The delegation is currently visiting Jordan at the invitation of the International Affairs Society in order to become acquainted with Jordan and to closely observe the various aspects of the Middle East problem.

During the meeting, which was attended by the president of the national assembly of American Arabs, the king reviewed the Palestine question's historical and political dimensions and its current developments, considering it the core of the Middle East conflict. He also explained the Arab move toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their rights to self-determination. The king concentrated on the developments in the occupied territories in light of the Israeli authorities' insistence on pursuing the settlement policy, changing the features of the occupied land, and evicting the legitimate owners of this land — a policy which constitutes the main obstacle to achieving a just and durable settlement in the Middle East.

Soviet Journalists Delegation Leaves 5 Dec

JN061110 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 6 Dec (PETRA) — The delegation of Soviet journalists visiting Jordan left Amman last night following a weeklong visit, during which the journalists held talks with the Jordanian Journalists Association and met with senior officials. The delegation also visited tourist sites and antiquities, and acquainted itself with the conditions of refugees in the camps.

Industry Minister Receives Cuban Ambassador

JN071623 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 7 Dec (PETRA) — Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, received the Cuban ambassador in Amman today. They discussed trade and economic relations between Jordan and Cuba and the means of further bolstering them to serve the interests of the two countries.

Present at the meeting was Ghazi Dhiyab, director of economic cooperation and the exports development department in the ministry.

U.S. Forces in Beirut Suburbs Under Fire

NC080808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] At 0445 today, the Israeli center in the Al-'Aqibiyah on the Sidon-Tyre road was attacked with machineguns. The Israeli checkpoint returned the fire and the clash continued for 30 minutes. The Israeli forces cut the Sidon-Tyre Road. The Israeli losses are not yet known. We were informed a few seconds ago that fire was opened at 0930, half an hour ago, at the U.S. forces in Al-'Amrusiyah in Beirut's southern suburbs. The U.S. forces are retaliating with the appropriate weapons.

Marines Shelled by Mortars

NC080917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0906 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The security situation in Beirut's southern suburbserupted at 0930 today after the opening of fire on the U.S. forces on the airport's eastern runway. We have been informed by security sources that the Marines are being subjected to mortar shelling and that they are violently retaliating by directing fire from tanks and other appropriate weapons at Hayy as-Sullum, Al-'Amrusiyah, and Burj al-Barajinah. The clashes are continuing violently. Many shells are falling on the area.

U.S. Ships Return Gunfire

NC080828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] At approximately 1000 today, U.S. warships returned the shelling to positions that had been firing on the Marines at the airport perimeter, particularly the Marine positions in the Iran Mediterranean Airways area and the positions opposite Hayy al-Sullum. It was learned that the shelling came from the Al-'Amrusiyah and Ash-Shuwayfat areas. Clashes are now taking place in the airport perimeter-Hayy as-Sullum area between the Marines and armed men.

Clashes Stopped

NC081009 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The clashes between the Marines and gunmen in Hayy as-Sullum stopped at 1030.

Israelis Suffer 10 Casualties in Attack North of Tyre

LD081153 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 8 Dec (KUNA) — About 10 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded today in a machinegun and missile attack launched by nationalist resistance elements on the Israeli center in Mahallat al-Aqibiyyah, on the coastal road north of Tyre in southern Lebanon. A KUNA correspondent in the south of the country said that the attack, which lasted about 30 minutes, began at 0445. Inhabitants of the adjoining village said that three helicopters and several ambulances rushed to the scene of the attack to move the Israeli casualties. The Israeli forces immediately cut off the main road beween Sidon and Tyre and began large-scale combing operations after calling for reinforcements. According to statements made by inhabitants of neighboring villages to the KUNA correspondent, the attackers, members of the Lebanese nationalist resistance, inflicted about 10 casualties among the Israeli ranks. The attackers escaped.

Al-Wazzan Makes Statement on Resignation

NC071641 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Text] The weekly Cabinet meeting, which lasted 2 hours, today ended at 1415. After the meeting, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin Al-Wazzan recording] In addition to the statement which will be made by the Cabinet secretary general, I want to explain something after what has been said about the resignation,which I wanted a decision on today. Actually, on 26 September, as you know, following the declaration of the cease-fire and the call for a national dialogue, I placed the resignation of my Cabinet at the disposal of his excellency the president out of my belief that this would assist the efforts to unite the people and bring together all the political forces in a national unity government which we are in dire need of in order to dress our wounds and save Lebanon from its ordeal.

You also know that his excellency the president took his time to decide on this resignation. He intended to hold consultations with the National Dialogue Committee. He later was authorized by the conferees to conduct international contacts concerning our Lebanese affairs. Meanwhile, the government continued to undertake its tasks and provide every possible service to this homeland. The national duty today takes precedence over anything else. Now that his excellency the president returned from his trip, and completed his contacts which gave him whatever is needed to be in a position to decide on the Cabinet situation, I have been urging his excellency the president since yesterday to take this step and undertake a step which we asked for since the submission of the resignation — namely the formation of a national unity government. What our arena is witnessing today, as well as the dangers of the existing occupation, prompt us to make constant efforts to save the Lebanese homeland. I reiterate that this requires the rallying of all the political forces around the regime, because the question today is not that of a certain program of the regime, but of the salvation of the whole homeland and the whole Lebanese entity.

Consequently, his excellency the president showed complete understanding for the reasons which prompted me to adhere to my resignation and gave his opinion in this regard in the Cabinet session. This will be contained in the Cabinet statement which will be delivered to you by the Cabinet secretary general. It is possible to sum this up in that his excellency will call for national consultations soon, in which he will raise all the issues and ways pertaining to the salvation of the homeland, and the issue of the

government will be among these topics. At the request of his excellency the president and for the sake of a national duty which, as I said, takes precedence over everything else, we shall continue in office until these consultations and expected decision regarding our mission take place. [end Al-Wazzan recording]

The Cabinet secretary general then distributed the following official statement:

After discussing the general security situation in greater Beirut and its suburbs, the mountain, Tripoli, and the south, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil briefed the Cabinet on his trip to the Vatican, Italy, and the United States. He expressed his thanks for the good welcome and hospitality he received. He affirmed that the purpose of the trip was to discuss ways to ensure the withdrawals and the other issues pertaining to the relations with Lebanon. The president explained in detail all the affairs and issues covered by his talks with the officials in the capitals he visited. He expressed his satisfaction for the understanding he received for all the developments and the adopted methodology for the continuation of the support for Lebanon to ensure its regaining of its sovereignty over all its territory and bring about all the withdrawals.

The president of the republic referred to the issue of the Palestinian withdrawals from Tripoli. He affirmed Lebanon's adherence to its legitimate right that this should take place in consultation and coordination with the Lebanese authority, and that Lebanon adheres to this position regarding every other issue on its territory, including the Dayr al-Qamar issue and the arrangements pertaining to it.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan pointed out that the time has come to decide on the resignation of his Cabinet — which he submitted on 26 September in order to open the way for the formation of a national unity government after the cease-fire agreement and the call for a national dialogue were made — and said that the first stage of the Geneva conference has ended and the president's trip to Washington and some other Western capitals provided the necessary facts which could help speed up the decision on the resignation, especially since the present stage has become dangerous and fateful and requires the rallying of all the political forces to rescue the country from the tragic ordeal gripping it.

The president of the republic explained that he really understands the patriotic reasons which prompt Prime Minister al-Wazzan to take this position. He reported that after the talks which he held abroad and after the contacts held at the Geneva conference regarding the formation of a new government, he asked for patience in this regard. The president has decided to call for national consultations on all developments and related issues, including the government issue. He will set the dates for these consultations soon. The president insisted that the prime minister and the Cabinet members continue shouldering their responsibilities in line with what he said in the Cabinet session on 26 September, until the consultations lead to sound methods for salvation. The Cabinet then discussed the subjects on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions concerning them.

President Asks Al-Wazzan To Postpone Resignation
LD072026 Kuwait KUNA in English 1902 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 7 (KUNA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil Wednesday asked his Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to postpone his resignation for the second time in three months [words indistinct] contacts to look into the possibility of forming a more broadly-based government. Sources at the Presidential Palace said that Al-Jumayyil asked all ministers to remain in their posts after Al-Wazzan reiterated his offer, originally made after the September 26 ceasefire which halted a fierce round of civil war, to submit the Cabinet's resignation. The sources said that Al-Jumayyil "understood and appreciated" the premier's offer, which politicians Tuesday had said might be accepted in principle by Al-Jumayyil as a move to boost waning hopes that tentative steps towards reconciliation between different Lebanese groups was possible.

A statement issued by Al-Wazzan said that the renewed offer to step down was prompted by his desire to see a national unity government installed, but pledged to continue to carry out his functions until Al-Jumayyil's contacts with opposition groups were over. Al-Wazzan's Cabinet has been strongly criticized by opposition groups who see it as a rubber-stamping body and Al-Wazzan as the regime's "token Moslem." Its credibility nose-dived even further when 'Adil Hamiyyah, one of the few ministers considered acceptable to the opposition, resigned last summer in protest at government policy in the Ash-Shuf mountain war.

Foreign Minister's Visit to Damascus Postponed
NC072146 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim's visit to Damascus has been postponed. Minister Salim was scheduled to visit Damascus tomorrow morning to meet with his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, at 0930 tomorrow in the Syrian capital. It has been difficult for Minister Salim to contact Minister Khaddam to tell him that he is compelled to postpone the visit because the Chamber of Deputies will convene a session tomorrow morning for a general debate on the government's policy. In view of this, it has been decided to send a special envoy to Damascus to get in touch with Minister Khaddam and fix a new date for the visit, either tomorrow evening when Minister Salim will leave for Damascus directly from Zgharta following his expected meeting with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, or the day after tomorrow, Friday, following the conclusion of his scheduled visit to Riyadh to meet with Saudi officials.

Security Committee Fails To Meet for Fourth Day
NC071945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet for the fourth day today because of the Amal Movement representative's continued boycott of the committee meetings. He is still maintaining his position to boycott the meetings unless some demands he submitted on behalf of his movement are fulfilled.

including the return of some people kidnapped a few days ago. The Army's representative in the committee, Colonel Jean Nasif, made contacts on various levels in an attempt to convene the committee so that it can shoulder its responsibilities in this critical stage, on the basis of the cease-fire agreement announced on 26 September and the decision taken by the National Dialogue Conference on 26 September to bolster the Security Arrangements Committee to enable it to take positive decisions. However, all these contacts failed because each party continued to stick to its position, despite the fact that the cease-fire agreement is continuously being violated on the various fronts. Theseviolations reflect negatively on the general situation in the country, paralyze the public services, increase the deterioration of the economic situation, and keep the Beirut International Airport and most schools in the areas of tension in Greater Beirut and the mountain closed. In view of these developments, it was necessary to take a position on this stagnation which gripped committee work and made it lose its effectiveness and credibility.

In a telephone call with Colonel Nasif, the Army's representative in the committee, to inquire about the reasons behind the suspension of the committee meetings, he explained that since its establishment, the committee has held a series of meetings and was able to tackle many problems which disturbed the security situation. The committee was able to achieve a cease-fire, reopen and provide protection for the airport, facilitate the exchange of kidnapped, reopen the southern coastal road, ensure the arrival of foodstuffs and medicines to besieged villages in Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh, and repair some of the telephone, water, and electricity networks. It was also able to become an authority for tackling any problem that had security repercussions. It also facilitated the holding of the official state examinations and began working to tackle other issues, including the reopening of the science faculty and the industrial zone between Ash-Shuwayfat and Kafr Shima. All this took place through cooperation among the committee members, who displayed complete effectiveness.

While the committee was preparing to begin a new stage of work and ensure attendance in its permanent headquarters 24 hours a day, in implementation of the agreement reached in Damascus — which could not be put into effect quickly because of some technical problems by the Multinational Force — the original members in the committee stopped coming to the meetings and sent representatives. This gradually made the committee lose its credibility and effectiveness. While the aim was to strengthen the committee and raise its level of representation, the absence of the parties concerned led to paralysis of committee work, because the representatives of the delegates — with all due respect to them — appeared incapable, in view of the importance of the task, to shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis the general critical and important issues which they had to tackle. These issues directly affected the interests of the citizens and the homeland.

Colonel Nasif said: In view of the above, I find myself, with much regret, compelled to suspend my participation in the meetings until the original delegates return to the table of dialogue without any precondition. The meeting room, as I said before, is the suitable place to raise all issues and find solutions to them. He added that he, and officers assisting him on the committee, will remain ready day and night to tackle any cease-fire violation and resolve secondary problems which may crop up. Colonel Nasif expressed the hope that this position will be a positive one that will give the committee new momentum to achieve the aim for which it was established.

4 AN-NAHAR Editors Reportedly Kidnapped

NC080832 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Armed men kidnapped four editors of *AN-NAHAR* newspaper during the night. They are Edmund Sa'b, Ghassan Sharbil, Fayiz Sfayr, and Joseph Basil, as well as driver 'Abduh Ghrayyib, who were abducted in the Ra's an-Nab' area in Beirut. The press and editors'trade unions are expected to hold an emergency session to discuss the incident.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Journalists' Kidnapping

NC080930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has denounced the kidnapping of *AN-NAHAR* newspaper journalists Edmund Sa'b, Ghassan Sharbil, Joseph Basil, Fayiz Sfayr, and driver 'Abduh Ghrayyib this morning. The prime minister asked the officials concerned to act quickly to secure their release. He also held contacts with the quarters concerned to achieve this. Information Minister Roger Shaykhani has also condemned this action.

Kidnapped AN-NAHAR Journalists Released

NC081123 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1102 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch from the National Information Agency editorial room — live]

[Text] We have just been informed that the kidnapped *AN-NAHAR* journalists, Edmund Sa'b, Ghassan Sharbil, Joseph Basil, Fayiz Sfayr, and driver 'Abduh Ghrayyib have been set free. They were handed over to the press doyen and *AN-NAHAR* staff at the home of lawyer Nabih Birri.

Lebanese Front Holds Meeting on Dayr al-Qamar

NC071920 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] At this morning's (?regular) meeting of the Lebanese Front, a proposal was put forward to set up a special committee to study the question of Dayr al-Qamar. The (?committee) is to include representatives of all parties concerned, of security circles, and of the International Red Cross. After the meeting [former] President Sham'un said that contacts have been made with all parties, including the authorities, for a peaceful solution guaranteeing security for the people of Dayr al-Qamar. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil on his part said that both Druze and Christians reject what has happened in the mountain.

The Kata'ib [Phalangist] Political Bureau today held a meeting and expressed the view that the initiative of Walid Junblatt with

respect to Dayr al-Qamar would not solve the problem unless it was preliminary to solving the major problem, which is: consolidating the Christian-Druze coexistence in the mountain. The members of the Kata'ib Political Bureau deplored the campaign waged by some people against what was left of the country's prosperity and infrastructure,and considered that the indiscriminate shelling was neither a military nor ideological operation, but was instead a suicide operation. Finally the members of the Political Bureau called for the adoption of a pact of honor putting the present conflict into a [word indistinct] framework as the last [word indistinct] to preserve the existence of Lebanon.

Security Forces Acting Chief Appointed
NC071944 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] During its meeting today the Cabinet decided to appoint Gendarmerie Commander Colonel Antoine Nasr as acting chief of staff of the Internal Security Forces. The appointment was made after the issuance of the legislative decree which organized the Internal Security Forces and abolished the position of the gendarmerie commander and distributed his powers among the commanders of gendarmerie detachments in the six governorates. These commanders come under the director general of the Internal Security Forces and the chief of staff. It is known that Colonel Nasr was appointed gendarmerie commander about 1 year ago.

Junblatt Says Political Settlement 'Remote'
JN072051 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 7 Dec (SANA) — Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has affirmed that a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis is remote and that a military solution is possible. Speaking yesterday during a tour of several villages in the Lebanese mountain region of Al-Matn, and published today, Junblatt said that the mountain battle was not sectarian, but a nationalist one seeking to establish Lebanon's Arab affiliation. It is a social battle seeking to end exploitation and establish the homeland's real Arab affiliation, he said. Junblatt explained that the battle will be long. The war will not end and arms will not be laid down until the achievement of national demands, he said. Junblatt warned that the Phalangist militias are currently preparing for a new military adventure after their major defeat in the mountain battle against the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Junblatt said: It is obvious that the events which followed the first round of the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva have proven that the rightist militias and parties are not ready to reach a political solution or give the majority of the Lebanese people their legitimate rights. The PSP leader affirmed that the National Salvation Front will do all it can to achieve a political solution, but at the same time it will continue its training, preparedness, and steadfastness to face all eventualities, because the rifle is the first and last guarantee for existence.

Junblatt Warns of U.S. Escalation in Lebanon
JN072045 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) — Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, met with the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and ambassadors from European countries who are accredited in Damascus. The meeting was attended by Marwan Hamadah. During the meeting, Junblatt warned of the danger of the Lebanese Army, the Phalangist militias, and the U.S. forces escalating the situation in Lebanon. Junblatt sent messages to Socialist International President Willy Brandt and Greek Prime Minister Andre Papandreou in which he warned of the dangerous situation in Lebanon.

Junblatt, Shaqra Send Messages to World Leaders
JN072057 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 7 Dec (SANA) — Shaykh Abu Shaqra and Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, have addressed urgent messages to Pope John Paul II and to a number of world leaders dealing with the recent developments in Lebanon. The two Lebanese nationalist figures warned of the new grave situation, particularly since all the initiatives for a cease-fire, security agreements, anddialogue, and the lifting of the siege from Dayr al-Qamar, have been faced by continuous escalation from the Phalangist Army and militias and the U.S. forces, which are carrying out assassination operations and explosions against individuals, groups, cities, and villages. On behalf of the Lebanese nationalist forces, Abu Shaqra and Junblatt voiced their hope that the international community would halt the aggression that is being practiced against these forces. They called on the international community to interfere promptly to end these tragedies and rescue the Lebanese people.

Haddad's Statement on Volunteering for Free Army
JN080744 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Free Lebanon Army, has issued the following statement: In order to organize volunteering for the Free Lebanon Army, and due to the great number of people that are volunteering, a day will be designated for this purpose. Those who wish to volunteer for the Free Lebanon Army should meet the competent committee as follows: every Monday 0900-1400. Those who wish to volunteer must bring their identity card, or birth certificate [ikhraj qayid] and two photographs. Place: Khayrallah Salamih Barracks in Marj 'Uyun. This will be effective as of Monday, 12 December.

Reportage on Ash-Shar' Press Conference

Claims Al-Asad 'Fully Recovered'

JN071617 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, held a press conference during which he declared that President Hafiz al-Asad has fully recovered and his private doctor has advised him to rest. However, Ash-Shar' did note that the Syrian president is doing some physical exercises, enjoys good health, goes on daily 10-km walks, follows developments, signs decrees, and instructs the Syrian Government.

Comments on Pilot's Release

JN071732 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, announced in Damascus that the body of the U.S. pilot who was killed after his plane was shot down last Sunday was handed over to the U.S. Government today. After referring to the full recovery of President al-Asad and noting that the president walks 10 km daily and closely follows all developments, Ash-Shar' explained that the release of the other U.S. pilot depends on the improvement of U.S.-Syrian relations. He added, however, that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance has eliminated all possibility of Washington playing the role of mediator or adopting a neutral stand in the region.

Notes 'Readiness' To Begin Dialogue

JN072015 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, has disclosed that Syria and the United States remain in contact. However, he said, Syria will undoubtedly open fire on any U.S. plane which circles over Syrian positions in Lebanon. The Syrian minister also expressed his countyr's readiness to begin a dialogue with Washington. He said: We will positively receive U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who is starting a new tour of the Middle East.

Khaddam on 'Military Incidents' in Lebanon

OW071600 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1217 GMT 7 Dec 83

["Exclusive" interview with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by NHK Damascus correspondent Hirayama at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus on 7 December. Hirayama asks questions in English, which are subtitled in Japanese, and Khaddam answers in Arabic fading into Japanese with Japanese subtitles. Hirayama's questions are transcribed from English and Khaddam's answers are translated both from subtitles and Japanese translation — recorded]

[Text] [Hirayama] We are glad that President al-Asad's health is recovering as is reported. When is he expected to resume his official functions?

[Khaddam] Yes, President al-Asad has recovered and has begun attending to his routine duties. He is examining things for himself and issuing instructions on important issues.

[Hirayama] The next question: The repeated military incidents involving both Syria and the United States in the Al-Biqa' Valley and around Beirut. Do you think it is likely that those conflicts might develop into a full-scale war between the two countries?

[Khaddam] Under no circumstances do we want any escalation of military operations. High-ranking U.S. government officials, particularly Secretary of Defense Weinberger, have threatened us time and time again. The reconnaissance overflights were, so to speak, a prelude to military operations. Those actions led us to take measures in self-defense. Put simply, since U.S. military aircraft flew in to strike at our bases, we intercepted them. As a matter of course, we will continue to exercise our right to self-defense in the future as well. We will resolutely resist any act of U.S. aggression against Syrian bases in Lebanon. U.S. Government leaders should realize the danger. They should realize the danger of their military intervention leading to a Vietnamization of this region. This not only affects the peace and security of the world, but also influences the basic interests of the United States. Should U.S. raids on Syrian forces continue, the situation in the Middle East will certainly become very dangerous.

[Hirayama] The Americans tend to regard the shelling by any party, like the Druze in the mountains, as fully backed by the Syrians, and on that assumption they carry out reconnaissance flights or retaliatory actions. Your Excellency, do you have any comment on that assumption?

[Khaddam] Fundamentally speaking, the stationing of U.S. troops in Lebanon is unlawful. The stationing of U.S. troops is nothing but a threat to the security and future of Lebanon. Furthermore, the presence of U.S. troops is also a threat to the Middle East as a whole. The United States wants to find a pretext for the dispatch of additional troops for the domination of Lebanon.

Of course, it is up to the United States to formulate interpretations that suit its own needs. But it is tormenting the patriotic and popular forces in Lebanon. It seeks to reinforce its troops there.

[Hirayama] As for the American pilot prisoner you captured Sunday [4 December] in Al-Biqa', are you going to keep him until all the U.S. troops leave Beirut as your defense minister once suggested?

[Khaddam] This issue has not yet been discussed within the Syrian Government. I think that it will be reviewed in light of the military sitation in Lebanon between Syria and the United States.

[Hirayama] What effect do you think the continuing tension in Lebanon will have on the Lebanese national reconciliation efforts in which Syria is deeply involved?

[Khaddam] Military tension will undoubtedly produce a negative atmosphere. In no way will it contribute to the success of national reconciliation. At the same time, in order to bring an end to 8 years of bloody fighting, the Lebanese people must urgently achieve reconciliation and harmony among themselves.

[Hirayama] U.S. President Reagan's hawkish stance toward Syria, we are afraid, is not likely to change in a very visible future. Do you think it will be fruitful to have a dialogue with the Reagan administration on the Middle East or Lebanese situation?

[Khaddam] If Reagan is a hawk, we, too, will become hawks. We remain in contact with the United States, and hope that it will change its policy. This is so because Washington's anti-Arab policy adversely affects the interests of all countries in this region. If the United States, a superpower, continues such a policy, that would be tantamount to abandoning its responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Should the United States change its policy, which is linked to the strategy and interests of Israel, then it would be possible to have a dialogue involving the countries of this region. However, if the United States continues its current policy, it will face greater difficulties. I hope that American politicians remember Vietnam. I hope they realize the gravity of the current, dangerous situation. And I hope they realize that their government's policy runs counter to the interests of the people.

[Hirayama] The Reagan administration's strategy is based on the assumption that there is one party — the United States and Israel — and the other party — Syria with the Soviet Union. What is your comment on that sort of definition?

[Khaddam] To be sure, the United States and Israel are one body; the Arabs are on the other side, and Syria is part of that group. The Arabs are supported by the Soviet Union, the nonaligned nations, and the Islamic countries. They also enjoy the support of peace-loving countries throughout the world.

[Hirayama] At this stage, are you ready to receive the U.S. special envoy, Mr Rumsfeld?

[Khaddam] In the past, Syria received U.S. special envoys on the Middle East question. We hope to examine the issue of whether or not we should receive Special Envoy Rumsfeld on the basis of the status of Syrian-U.S. relations and the agenda to be discussed with him.

[Hirayama] Another overall long-range thing — the Arab summit conference last year in Fes adopted a resolution, which includes a chapter on conditional coexistence with Israel. Syria signed that declaration. Do you think that the declaration is still valid and Syria will keep the commitment in it?

[Khaddam] Syria is a member of the Arab League and supports all the resolutions adopted by either the Arab summit meetings or the Arab League.

[Hirayama] The PLO chairman, Mr 'Arafat, is at the moment leaving Tripoli by the United Nation's auspices. Once he is out of Lebanon, I am sure he will try to reassert himself by pursuing so-called Palestinian independence policy, which might not be compatible with the Syrian interests or Syrian stand. What is your comment?

[Khaddam] Syria does not wish to meddle in the internal affairs of Palestine. It is a problem for the Palestinian people to resolve on thier own. Syria does not force specific policies on others. At the same time, no one can force policies on Syria which go beyond the framework of the Arab summit resolutions. We firmly believe that the PLO will continue to pursue policies which involve fighting against Zionism and imperialism in accordance with the Palestinian National Council resolution. However, should he break away from this Palestinian principle, any Palestinian leader would lose the support of the Palestinian people and be kicked out of his position.

[Hirayama] The last question is rather personal. We have learned that Your Excellency is very fond of reading books. Could you mention some of the books which have impressed you recently?

[Khaddam] Well, one book I read recently relates to the crusaders. After reading it, I strongly felt that history repeats itself. I say so because, just as in the days of the crusaders, we now face attacks from the Western world and the Zionists.

[Hirayama] Thank you very much, sir.

[Khaddam] Thank you.

Rif'at al-Asad on 'Our Search for Peace'

JN072030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and head of the society of higher institute graduates, has declared that the political line which Syria leads represents the primary pillar of Arab action and constitutes an axis for the Arab equation that rests upon the hope of achieving victory and liberation.

Addressing members of the society's executive bureau in a meeting held tonight, Rif'at al-Asad added that our Arab nation is currently passing through the most dangerous of times, a period that requires Arab solidarity and unity.

He stated: We are the real advocates of peace. We work untiringly in our search for peace amid a forest shrouded in smoke and surrounded by darkness. As we advance through this forest, we confirm to the imperialists and the wild Zionists that we will defend our right to live and build our civilization. We will not hesitate to protect our people from harm and defend the future of our people, who are working for peace.

Touching on the situation in Lebanon, Comrade Rif'at al-Asad said: Lebanon — in its kinfolk, Arabism, and fate — is the

homeland of our neighboring brothers. We will not permit the enemies to wreak havoc upon it. We take this stand in order to protect the sanctity of brotherhood and neighborliness. We will continue to defend Lebanon until it becomes capable of defending its citizens, Arabism, and fate.

Libya's 'Abd as-Salam Jallud Arrives 7 December

JN080640 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's 1 September revolution, arrived in Damascus from Aden last night. He was met on arrival at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; the heads of the Arab homeland and protocol departments at the Foreign Ministry; the Libyan charge d'affaires in Damascus; and members of the Libyan Liaison Office [Embassy] staff. Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, and Fadl Shururu, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, were also on hand to meet Jallud.

Received by Khaddam

JN080827 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — At 0900 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's 1 September Revolution.

PDRY Official Arrives in Damascus 7 Dec

JN071426 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) — Comrade 'Ali As'ad Muthanna, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, arrived in Damascus today from the PDRY for a visit to Syria.

In an arrival statement, Comrade Muthanna affirmed the PDRY's position in support of Syria against the conspiracies of U.S. and Zionist imperialism. He also criticized the act of aggression conducted by U.S. forces against Syrian positions in Lebanon. 'Ali As'ad Muthanna noted that the purpose of his visit to Syria — scheduled to last for several days — is to consult with officials on international developments in general, and on regional developments in particular.

BCP Delegation Stresses Support for Syria

JN071019 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) — The Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation has stressed its support for Syria's steadfast stand toward all forms of imperialist and Zionist threats and designs against the Arab nation.

During a meeting here last night with Dr Sabir Falhut, secretary of the Syrian-Bulgarian Friendship Society and head of the Syrian Journalists Union, (Petur Vitchkov), deputy chief of the BCP Central Committee's Cultural Department [name and title as received], said that Syria is not alone in its struggle, and that it has strong nerves and strong weapons with which to defend its rights and dignity. He added that Syria's friends are also sufficiently strong.

During the meeting, which was attended by Georgi Yankov, Bulgaria's ambassador in Damascus, and by the members of the accompanying delegation, Dr Sabir Falhut spoke about Syria's pan-Arab responsibility to defend the honor of the Arab nation and the destiny of its generations. He also stressed the soundness of Syria's internal stand — people and party — under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr Falhut added: Our people have struggled against imperialism throughout their history, a history filled with sacrifices and heroism. Their experience and heroism make us optimistic and confident of victory, regardless of the imperialist threats or the size of the forces of evil and aggression.

The BCP delegation led by (Vitchkov) arrived in Syria the day before yesterday at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command.

Culture Minister Receives GDR Counterpart 7 Dec

JN071512 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) — Dr Najah 'Attar, minister of culture, today received Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffmann, GDR minister of culture, who arrived in Damascus last night at the head of an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria.

During their meeting, 'Attar reviewed the friendly relations which exist between Syria and the GDR, saying: We are in rather the same position, since both Syria and the GDR are confrontationalist countries. We in Syria face the prospect of U.S. imperialist aggression against our territory, while you face the danger of the strategic missiles which the United States is deploying in the FRG. We are engaged in the same battle. Both of us have the support of our friends in the communist bloc — foremost of which is the USSR.

She affirmed both the strong cultural relations which exist between the two friendly countries and their important cultural exchange and cooperation programs.

Hoffmann declared his country's support for the just Arab cause and said: U.S. imperialism is our joint enemy, and it will not be merciful with either of us. Your downing of the U.S. planes was a normal retaliation for aggression. He presented proposals aimed at developing and enriching cultural exchange. Among these were the ideas of an annual exchange of art exhibitions, a sharing of expertise in the fields of glass and ceramics, and participation in acting and artistic festivals and the continued holding of film festivals.

AL-BA'TH on 'Boundless' Will To Face 'Threats'

JN080923 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Our press review today is devoted to the *AL-BA'TH* editorial entitled: "The U.S.-Israeli Raids, an Application of the Strategic Agreement." The paper discusses the regional situation in light of the serious U.S. escalation.

AL-BA'TH writes: The escalation of aggression and the direct military operations against Syria by the United States and Israel have come as no surprise to us. This is so because everything was arranged in the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement which was recently signed in Washington. This strategic agreement between the United States and its ally, Israel, marks a new phase of aggression not only against Syria, but against the entire Arab nation as well. It is the early implementation of this agreement which is surprising. The U.S. urge to strike at Syria and to retaliate directly against it or in complete cooperation with Israel needs neither proof nor evidence.

U.S. policymakers have come to the conclusion that all their plans in the region have not only reached a dead end, but have probably already turned against them. They believe that the only way to save these plans is to get rid of the Syrian obstacle as soon as possible. Therefore, the partners in the strategic agreement resolved that the first strike must be directed at Syria so as to drive Syrian forces out of Lebanon and enable the United States, and subsequently Israel, to change the formula and impose the political reality which they have been planning for a long time.

AL-BA'TH adds: U.S. involvement in direct military operations against Syria is indicative of the grave impasse which U.S. policy in Lebanon and the Arab region has reached. Observers of the current regional situation are unanimous in their belief that acts of piracy and the flagrant U.S. use of force will not save its policy. Syria will not bear the brunt of the failure of this mistaken U.S. policy or of the U.S. impasse. Those who plotted, incited Israel to invade Lebanon, and massed their forces in the eastern Mediterranean must be prepared for the results. Should they continue this reckless policy they must expect to arrive at another impasse, one which may be greater than that of Vietnam.

Washington's rulers have overlooked the fact that the big stick policy will not bear fruit in Lebanon. They are making a great mistake if they think that by provoking Syria with their modern planes and by inciting Israel to commit an aggressive folly they will uproot our forces in Lebanon, eliminate the role being played by Syria, and render the back of the Arab nation vulnerable to the Zionist octopus and complete U.S. hegemony over the region.

AL-BA'TH continues: It would appear that — given the Reagan administration's insistance on the arms race and the deployment of U.S. missiles, as well as the current circumstances in the Arab world — U.S. policymakers thought it was possible to strike at Syria and begin the next state of arranging the regional situation to suit their ambitions and those of their allies in Tel Aviv.

It is time for the Arabs to realize the import of these recent developments. They must know that the strategic agreement is only the tip of the iceberg; and that the agreement and its consequencies are a direct, genuine threat to the Arab existence as a whole, and not only to Syria. It is illogical to have Arab resources remain idle, waiting for the circle of aggression to reach them. It is also illogical to restrict the role of this or that Arab country to mere condemnation or denunciation of the aggression. The current situation is very critical, and everyone is called upon to advance to the phase of activity, decisions, and action. The Arab nation must prove that nothing is more basic or urgent than facing the impending threat of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. The Arabs must prove to Washington that — faced with aggression — they will adopt a unified Arab stand that will confront the aggressors and strike at all their interests in the Arab region.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-BA'TH* declares: We in Syria are perfectly aware of the strategic agreement's threat to us and to the Arab nation. Therefore, Syria's determination to confront these threats is boundless. Syria will not hesistate for a single moment to do all it deems proper to correct the overall balance of power in the region. What is now taking place on the ground shows that Syria cannot be easily swallowed, and that any act of aggression launched against it will not be a picnic. Those who think that a swift military strike can break Syria's back and eliminate its presence and role are suffering from illusions. Syria's answer will be strong, effective, and more than they expect. Syria has always meant what it says.

Commentary Analyzes 'Dangerous' Regional Trend

JN071600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] By developing its alliance with Israel into long-range strategic cooperation, military coordination, and joint military action against Syria and the Arabs, the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan has entered a real and aggressive war against the Arabs in general and against Syria in particular. There is no other explanation for the behavior, declarations, and statements of U.S. officials following U.S. Department of State Under Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger's visit to Israel and his comment that the United States should strengthen its special relationship with Israel if it wants to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East and settle the Lebanese problem and those of the region within a short time. There is no other explanation for U.S. intentions following the visit to Washington by Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens. There is no other explanation for their talks with U.S. President Reagan and other U.S. Administration officials — both before and after the U.S. moved toward direct military action against Syrian forces.

Needless to say, Israel is the aggressor which has launched wars, invaded Lebanon, occupied other people's land, illegally annexed occupied territories, rejected and continues to reject UN resolutions concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question, and opposed and continues to oppose any just settlement based on the principles of the UN Charter or resolutions. Israel

has also refused — and continues to refuse — to either recognize the Palestinian people's national rights or to accept the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. By developing its biased relations with Israel; by giving Israel an open door to its Department of Treasury and its arsenal; by declaring its full political and diplomatic support for Israel's rulers; by employing its military units, which exist as part of the so-called Multinational Force, in aggressive actions coordinated with Israel and taken for the purpose of forcibly imposing its will on Syria; by the Israeli-U.S. hegemony over the Arabs; and by the unjust U.S.-Israeli conditions which violate the principles of the UN Charter and international law, the United States has indicated that — as a superpower — it openly takes full responsibility for all the crimes that have been and are being committed by Israel, and for the grave situation in the Middle East, one which might result in destructive consequences affecting world peace.

The Middle East is neither Grenada nor a U.S. state. It is not isolated from the interests of important international forces that exist near the region's borders. This dangerous U.S. trend in the Middle East is in harmony with Reagan's Middle Eastern policy, which is based on heightening international tension and pushing global relations toward confrontation, collision, and a destructive nuclear war. All this forms part of a desperate attempt to change the balance of power, to reverse the wheels of development, and to spread U.S. hegemony over the world.

The United States sent its forces to the Middle East under a false pretext, exploiting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which the United States itself had ordered. These forces have cancelled their declared mission in order to act as a force of direct aggression and as a tool for spreading U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the Arab homeland — a fact which makes the withdrawal of the Multinational Force from Lebanon and the U.S. fleet from the eastern Mediterranean a very persistent duty, one equal to the duty of evacuating the Israeli invaders from Lebanon and restoring the natural role of the United Nations. This duty does not fall to Syria and Lebanon alone. It falls to every Arab country and to their political and social forces, to the international community, and to the United Nations, which should play its role with particular emphasis on protecting peace in accordance with its charter.

Just as the United States first wants to isolate Syria — in line with statements made by Reagan, Shultz, Weinberger, Shamir, and Arens — it is also obvious that the U.S.-Israeli alliance is directed against all Arabs, the Arab will, and the pan-Arab cause. The Arab nation cannot be split in two, as the Reagan administration might wish. Reagan is gambling on a division of the Arab ranks which confront U.S.-Israeli aggression. It is also impossible for the Arabs to be deceived by U.S. envoy Rumsfeld, who wants to persuade those whom Washington calls the moderate Arabs of the soundness of the policy involved in the U.S.-Israeli alliance and the use of force against Syria. It should be clear to the United States that during any U.S.-Israeli act of military aggression against Syria and the cause of the Arab nation there will never be radical Arabs who deserve military defeat and moderate Arabs who stand by and praise the aggressors. The Arab masses will never allow such a situation to arise. In any brutal aggression against the Arab homeland, no Arab regime can simply stand by, and U.S. interests and centers in the homeland will never remain far from the fire which the United States wants to ignite in the region.

The governments of the various Arab countries are denouncing and condemning the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel. They warn against any U.S. aggression Syria, and of the grave consequences of implementing the aggressive U.S.-Israeli plan. Those who sent Rumsfeld to the region are mistaken if they think that this U.S. diplomat will be able to persuade those whom they call the moderate Arabs that it is Syria, and not Israel, together with its protector, the United States, that endangers the Arabs.

With its current policy, the United States is making a big mistake and is acting against both U.S. regional interests, and against peace here and throughout the world. It might be useful for the United States to make a hasty retreat from the policy of war, the gun, the ship, and the plane, and to abandon all attempts to impose its will and its foolish behavior before it is too late. Those threatened by aggression and the danger of aggressive U.S.-Israeli military cooperation will not allow the superpower to upset the regional balance of forces. They will not permit the implementation of its aggressive plans and designs — the objective of which is the imposition of U.S.-Israeli domination — without moving to defend themselves and without taking all the measures and steps necessary to establish a balance in the region and to confront the U.S. military force which has entered the battle alongside Israel.

Iraqi Communist Party on U.S. Raid

JN071404 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — In a statement published today commenting on the aggressive U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon and the downing of three U.S. planes by Syrian air defense forces, the Iraqi Communist Party [ICP] affirmed that the dangerous escalation of aggressive acts by U.S. imperialism and Israel, together with the announcement of these acts, reveals the dimensions of the aggressive designs which Reagan and Shamir recently agreed upon in Washington. The ICP explained that the Reagan and Shamir administrations have discovered that the only way to free the designs of imperialism and Zionism from their current impasse in Lebanon — which is due to the firm stand of Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces — is through additional military adventures, even if this leads to a major confrontation with brotherly Syria and regardless of the great dangers which this confrontation poses to the region's security and to world peace.

HADASH No Confidence Motion Struck From Agenda

TA071231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Today the motion of no confidence submitted to the Knesset by the HADASH faction concerning the cooperation between Israel and the United States was struck off the agenda by a majority of votes. The HADASH faction members voted for the motion, and Knesset members from the Alignment and Shinuy abstained.

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on U.S. Talks

TA071243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the basis of the understanding reached with U.S. Administration leaders was the two countries' common desire to deter Syria's threats. This was not in accordance with the 1981 memorandum of understanding, in which the emphasis was on deterring the Soviet Union. Shamir briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today about his visit to the United States with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Here is our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan:

[Golan] Shamir related that President Reagan has a film he shot in the Nazi concentration camps after they had been liberated by the U.S. Army. When, in a talk with his friends a short time ago, one of them cast doubts on the fact that the Germans had exterminated 6 million Jews the President screened his film to those present. Every time I think about Israel, Reagan told Shamir, I remember the terrible things I saw with my own eyes at the end of World War II in Europe. That President, the prime minister said, stands at Israel's right hand not only politically, but also emotionally. On the political plane also, Shamir said, the background to the visit was comfortable. The United States is disappointed with the Arab countries that are considered to be moderate; with Jordan, which did not join Reagan's initiative; with Egypt, which has violated its promise to put its relations with Israel back to normal; with Saudi Arabia, which is not succeeding in moderating Syria; and with Iraq, which is sunk in a lunatic war with Iran. The attacks against the Marines in Lebanon also led to a rapprochement. We share the same interests and goals in Lebanon, the prime minister said.

Israel, which expressed its opposition to the Reagan plan and also its opposition to giving sophisticated weapons to the moderate Arab countries, explained that there was nowhere in Eretz Yisra'el that was out of bounds to Jews. The Joint Political Military Group is to meet on 10 January, and on its agenda are the joint maneuvers and the storage of U.S. weapons in Israel. At this point Yitzhaq Shamir arrived at the difference in principle that he sees between the 1981 memorandum of understanding and the talks he held last week. This time, the basis for the cooperation is to deter the Syrian threat; 2 years ago the emphasis was on deterring the Soviet Union.

When Shamir said he had also complained about the activities of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem, Knesset member Yosi Sarid asked: Did you also raise Ambassador Lewis' opposition when he demanded the late Simha Ehrlich get rid of Sharon? The prime minister answered: When I was in Washington I did not know about the story Shim'on Schiffer publicized on the Voice of Israel. In conclusion, the prime minister again explained: We are not concealing any details of the talks held. What I have not reported and not talked about simply did not happen. We did not speak about a war against anyone or about a plan for a war against anyone. On the contrary, we discussed how it would be possible to calm down and stablilize the situation in Lebanon. What happened in Lebanon after the visit was not a result of the talks, it is only an illustration [last word in English] of the situation in that country.

Arens To Pay Another Visit to United States

TA071025 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Mikha'el Gerti]

[Text] Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens will leave at the end of the week for a 3-day visit to the United States.

This trip, 8 days after his return from the latest Washington visit, had been planned before the joint Shamir-Arens visit to the United States. During this coming visit Professor Arens will be awarded an honorary doctorate by the Yeshiva University of New York.The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, will be awarded a doctorate along with Defense Minister Arens. Various U.S. radio and television appearances by Arens as well as lectures have also been planned.

Arens Remarks to Contractors Convention Reported

U.S Cooperation; Arms Race

TA071538 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister addressed himself to the issue of cooperation with the United States this evening. According to him, an independent Lebanon is an interest jointly shared by Israel and the United States. The defense minister was speaking at a convention of contractors and builders. Our correspondent Tzvi Zerahya reports on the defense minister's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Zerahya] Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens said that Israel and the United States agree on the assessments and the political steps that should be taken to achieve the objectives. Speaking at a convention of contractors and builders in Jerusalem, Prof Arens emphasized:

[Arens] We also returned with the realization that in addition to being aware of our common objectives and interests, today we are also very close regarding the assessment of the situation and the policy which we think must be adopted to achieve those objectives. A partnership with the leader of the free world, the United States, is an issue so close to our hearts and so close to our primary interests — that is, the security of Israeli citizens — such a partnership must be a good one. Therefore, at present we are optimistic about our ability to achieve our objectives.

[Zerahya] Prof Arens said that Israel is witnessing a strong arms buildup and it must decide how much of its resources and production capability it is ready to allocate to security. Prof Arens explained that the arms race in the region is strong and unprecedented:

[Arens] We are actually witnessing an unprecedented arms buildup as a result of the energy crisis and the large sums of money flowing to the Arab countries that are purchasing unprecedented quantities of arms. Jordan is arming at an unprecedented pace with grants from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Syria is arming at an unprecedented pace and every year we must decide how much of our resources and production capability we are ready to allocate to security. [end recording]

Lebanon; Israeli Withdrawal

TA071734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel is looking for a way to gradually transfer responsibility for security in southern Lebanon to someone else and leave. At present, however, there is no suitable element there to assume the role. Prof Arens spoke at the closing session of the contractors and builders convention and our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports on his speech.

[Begin recording] [Ben-On] We have no other aims in Lebanon but to ensure peace in the Galilee. We do not look in other directions, but every day we try to maintain the achievements of the Peace for Galilee Operation.

[Arens] I wish we could simply transfer the job of policing and keeping order in the Lebanese areas close to the Israeli border to some local element such as Major Haddad, who will do the work, who will pay the price, and let us remain on our side of the border. At present there are no local elements who can control this area, police it, and enable us to go home.

[Ben-On] Therefore, the defense minister said, the IDF stays in the area. Israel does not want to stay in Lebanon for long.

[Arens] We are looking for a way by which we will be able, gradually if necessary, to transfer responsibility to someone else and leave there.

[Ben-On] The Syrians, the PLO, and other radical elements in Lebanon do all they can to undermine the Lebanese Government and depose it.

[Arens] We certainly would like the Lebanese Government, headed by Al-Jumayyil, to hold its own and extend its sovereignty over all of Lebanon. If we can help in any way, we are ready to do so. Not because it is our aim — our aim is to ensure peace in the Galilee — however there is a direct link between peace in the Galilee and the situation in Lebanon. [end recording]

Further on Withdrawal

TA071818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens today spelled out what Israel is trying to do in southern Lebanon. Arens was speaking to building contractors meeting in Jerusalem. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] Defense Minister Arens said Israel is now trying to build a local force in the south that can police the area and enable Israeli troops to return home. Arens said there was no local force there at present that could handle the job. It would not be easy to achieve this goal, Arens said and he stressed: The handing over of control could only come about gradually.

Arens did not say how long this might take and he added: We don't know if we'll succeed. Israel was supporting President al-Jumayyil's government in the hope it could expand its sovereignty to the south and to send Lebanese troops there. Israel still believes that President al-Jumayyil's government would survive. This was linked to Israel's goal in the south because the population there was hesitant about a local force taking over unless it was under the control of a strong central government in Beirut.

The defense minister concluded: This is the best way for Israel to leave Lebanon. He rejected what he called the theory of those who say Israel should pull back from the Al-Awwali line to a wall along the northern border. There is no such wall, Arens said, and what happens in Lebanon affects Israel. For Israel simply to pull out would mean that people in the north would again have to live underground as they had before the peace for Galilee Operation.

The defense minister told the building contractors, among the more well-to-do in Israel, that the country's standards of living must be cut but he argued forcefully for an adequate defense budget. To drive this point home, Arens disclosed that Syria's standing army, without reserves, equals Israel's entire army, including the reserves. [end recording]

Peres on Unilateral Implementation of Accord

TA072001 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Labor Party Shim'on Peres thinks that Israel should implement the agreement with Lebanon unilaterally and withdraw to the international border. Peres criticized the government, which made the implementation of the agreement conditional on a Syrian agreement to withdraw. Our correspondent in the United States Razi Barqay reports that MK Peres said this in New York at a meeting with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. On leaving the meeting, he told correspondents that Syria downed the U.S. planes with modern weapons. In response to a question as to whether this was a kind of weapon not seen before in the region, Peres said that he does not know.

Morning Press on Lebanese Issue, Settlements

TA080627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] *THE JERUSALEM POST* says that in light of reports publicized in the United States, it is desirable that the Israeli leaders make it crystal clear that Israel has fought enough in Lebanon, and that it will not be a party to any attempt to solve the Lebanese problem militarily, despite the fact that Israel has decided to act in self-defense against the terrorists and Syrians. The paper adds that this does not mean Israel should not be prepared to aid President al-Jumayyil in ridding Lebanon of the Syrian military presence.

HA'ARETZ reacts to remarks by former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance saying the Israeli Government would do well to stop the settlements and keep the promise made in the Camp David accords regarding full autonomy for the Arabs in the territories. The paper writes that to a certain extent, Mr Vance made remarks that the present U.S. secretary of state prefers not to say himself at the moment. Vance would surely not have used the tone that he did yesterday had he been isolated from the prevailing U.S. moods. His views are not those of a professional nonconformist [last word in English], and a man like him is not a marginal figure in the U.S. arena. It is, therefore, important that the government pay attention to his remark.

Further Reaction to Jerusalem Bus Bombing

Shamir Warning

TA071331 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel will yet get its hands on the terrorists who carried out the attack in Jerusalem yesterday. Israel will strike at the terrorists until they stop their vicious actions. In Yitzhaq Shamir's opinion, even after this vicious attack many people in the world will continue to believe in the lie that Yasir 'Arafat and his men have moderated their positions. However, Israel has no illusions since it knows that its enemies are governed by profound hatred and murderous passion.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister made these remarks while summing up the political debate in the Knesset on the results of his talks in Washington. He denied reports spread by the Soviet Union that Israel wants to purchase Pershing missiles. He emphasized that Israel has no intention of launching a war against Syria and that the cooperation with the United States is designed to deter Syria.

Security Source Remarks

TA071256 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] A senior security source has said that for the moment it is not known which body perpetrated the attack against the bus yesterday, 6 December. The same source said that Israel regarded the Air Force attacks as an efficient measure. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Tal] Yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the perpetrators of the attack would not get off scot free. Despite the fact that the two rival factions of Fatah have claimed responsibility, a senior security source told us today: It is not yet clear to us who exactly placed the bomb in the bus.

In reply to our question about the efficiency of Israel's aerial reaction, the source said: We regard the Air Force attacks as a measure which may be efficient. Among other things, they are a signal to the Syrians. The same source said that for there to be no misunderstandings with the Americans, the IDF informs them a short time before Air Force planes take off that we will be in Lebanese airspace. At the same time, he emphasized that there was no tactical-military coordination with the Americans.

He said the American's and Israel's assessments of the situation were now very similar in everything involving the danger from Syria and the PLO, inter alia. The Americans now understand very well that Al-Asad is interested in taking control of the entire territory of Lebanon, even over that half of the country not yet under his control.

West Bank Figures' Denunciation

TA072004 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] This is certainly news: For the first time since the terrorist organizations began operating against Israeli civilian targets, a group of Arab public figures in Judaea and Samaria today joined forces in a call denouncing attacks on Israeli civilian targets. The communique — the like of which cannot be remembered in the past and which was issued this evening — is signed by the deposed mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf; the deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustafa an-Natshah; the chairman of the East Jerusalem electric company, Anwar Nusaybah; the editor of the East Jerusalem paper *AL-FAJR*, Paul 'Ajluny; and *AL-FAJR*'s editor-in-chief, Hanna Siniora.

The five men say that the attack on the Egged bus — a civilian target — in Jerusalem yesterday harms any attempt to reach an Israeli-Palestinian understanding. Such an operation, regardless of whether it takes place in Jerusalem, the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp in southern Lebanon, or in Nabulus, is regrettable, the five say. They go on to say that violence against civilians perpetrated by one of the sides — and it does not matter which one of them — does not contribute to the just solution of the Palestinian problem.

This evening, Anwar Nusaybah told our correspondent that the publication of such a communique was the least that could be done and that he is inclined to believe the announcement issued in Cyprus in which the terrorists assumed responsibility for the attack. Nevertheless, Nusaybah added that he was sorry about the attack.

Arab Journalist's Condemnation

TA081030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Journalist Raymonda at-Tawil has condemned the terrorist act involving the bus in Jerusalem. In her opinion, civilians should not be targets for terrorist activity, since this is a two-edged sword which harms all parties involved. Raymonda at-Tawil returned from Jordan after about a year and told our correspondent Arye Gus she has discovered more political awareness and more moderation among the Palestinians in the territories, who seem to be readier for a political process.

Jordan Bridge Traffic Restricted

TA080837 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0825 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli security sources made it clear this morning that traffic over the Jordan River bridges, from Israel to Jordan, has been restricted following the terrorist act in Jerusalem in order to prevent the escape of the perpetrators. The checks are stricter than usual and not everyone is allowed to cross. In contrast, the traffic on the bridges from Jordan to Israel is proceeding normally.

East Germany Reportedly Trying To Improve Image

TA071127 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 1

[Report from Bonn by Israel Telegraphic Agency]

[Text] Despite its continuing political and military support of the PLO, East Germany has of late indicated that it is making efforts to improve its image in Israel.

The latest example in a series of steps taken with this in mind is the permisison granted to the only Yiddish theater existing in East Germany to visit Israel. This is the first time such permission has been given.

Earlier, the East German authorities invited Israeli journalists to participate in a memorial ceremony in Dresden to mark the 45th anniversary of the "Kristallnacht." They also provided every possible assistance to the visiting newsmen.

Two months ago, an Israeli journalist reported from the East German town of Eisleben, birthplace of Martin Luther, that no commemorative plaque marked the site where the town's synagogue had stood. Several weeks later the East German authorities changed an earlier decision in this respect and permitted members of the Jewish community of a neighboring town to come over and affix a memorial plaque.

Territories Coordinator Departs for United States

TA081026 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] The coordinator for activities in the territories, Brigadier General, reserves, Binyamin Eli'ezer, left for the United States last night in order to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The visit had been arranged by Defense Minister Moshe Arens on his recent trip to Washington.

Labor Party's Navon Sets Up Election Headquarters

TA071147 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 8

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Headquarters for the election of Yitzhaq Navon as head of the Labor Party were officially set up this week. The founders are virtually unknown party functionaries — Sa'adia Galb from Kefar Blum and Shmu'el Ohanna from Qiryat Shemona.

ALGERIA

Messaadia Meets With USSR's Marshal Ogarkov

LD071759 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Algiers, 7 Dec (APS) — Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the permanent secretariat of the party Central Committee, has received the Soviet military delegation which is currently on a friendly visit to our country. The audience took place this morning at the Zighout Palace. The delegation, headed by Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, is visiting at the invitation of the Ministry of National Defense.

The talks held during this meeting were largely devoted to the friendly relations which exist between the two countries and parties.

The Soviet delegation was also received at the Foreign Ministry this morning by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs. During this audience, bilateral cooperation and the current international situation were discussed.

LIBYA

AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR on U.S. Raid in Lebanon

LD071047 Tripoli JANA in English 0554 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 2, December 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR*, the organ of the Revolutionary Committees in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, condemned the widescale attack of the U.S. military planes last Sunday on Arab Syrian [words indistinct] and which was a practical translation of the strategic alliance agreement between U.S. and Zionist entity.

The U.S. crusade and Zionist forces have begun to put to practice the first article of that agreement in an attempt to bring steadfast Syria down on its knees.

Political observers confirm that the premeditated U.S. attacks against Syrian forces will be followed by an outright attack by the Zionist forces, in line with the crusade-Zionist plan, agreed upon by the [word indistinct], Reagan and Shamir, in Washington.

To hit Syria means to hit the last bastion of steadfastness in the eastern Arab world and means opening the way for the extended plans of U.S.-Zionist alliance which aims at controlling the Arab world.

According to U.S.-Zionist plans, once Syria is out of the way, and by the treacherous agreement of 17 May signed by the Phalange authority in Lebanon with the Zionist entity, Lebanon will be transformed into a base for the imperialist Zionist alliance and the bridgehead for occupying the rest of the eastern Arab world.

The active forces in the Arab world, headed by Jamahiriyah, when they warned against the danger of this strategic alliance signed between U.S. and the Zionist entity last week and said that this was a declaration of war against the Arab nation, were fully aware of what they were talking about. Thus the following days are proving this truth of these statements even before the ink with which the agreement was signed, dried.

The U.S. and the Zionist entity are the two sides of the same coin. The Zionist entity, since its inception in 1948, was the bridgehead for the U.S. in implementing its imperialist plans in the Arab region. The strategic alliance between U.S. and the Zionists is nothing new, it has always existed. Except that under the new agreement, occupied Palestine will be transformed into a warehouse for the most advanced and dangerous strategic U.S. arms including nuclear arms.

The attack against Syria came to expose to all those who believed in U.S. neutrality and in its role to bring so-called peace to the Middle East, the truth about U.S. policies.

Syria's heroic stand and the fact that it brought down three U.S. military planes confirms to the Arab world that it does possess the resources for confrontation and coming out of it victorious, if it had the willingness to fight and determination to win. The U.S. is not the force that cannot be defeated. It was in the past by the Vietnamese people and the Arab nation is not less courageous than the Vietnamese people.

The *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* insisted that the U.S. attack on Syrian forces is the warning bell for all Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

KENYA

PRC Communications Minister Arrives in Nairobi

EA072207 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A four-man Chinese delegation to the country's 20th anniversary celebration of Kenya's independence arrived in Nairobi yesterday led by the Chinese minister for communications, Mr Li Qing.

Delegation Leaves for Ugandan General's Funeral

EA081209 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A high-powered Kenyan delegation left Nairobi early today for Kampala to represent the government at the funeral of Uganda's chief of staff, David Oyite Ojok, who died in a helicopter tragedy last week. The delegation, comprising a minister of state in the president's office, Mr Justus Ole Tipis, and the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, also includes two Army officers. The Kenya team was expected to take part in a requiem mass today for the late Ojok and other senior military officers who died with him in the accident last Friday. The state funeral for Major General Ojok takes place tomorrow. Early this week, President Moi sent his message of condolence to President Milton Obote of the tragedy that claimed the life of the late Ojok and other senior Ugandan military men.

SOMALIA

President Orders Amnesty for 801 Criminals

EA080024 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Challe Siad Muhammad Barre, secretary general of the SRSP [Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party] and president of the republic, who is currently on a working tour of the country's northern regions with an accompanying delegation, addressed a mammoth rally at the Hargeisa sports stadium this morning, where he was warmly welcomed. In his address, the president thanked the people for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation in the northwest region and conveyed greetings from the SRSP Central Committee to the people of the region. Challe Siad today amnestied 801 people from the northwest region who were imprisoned for various crimes. The president ordered them all to be released immediately.

WSLF Raids on Ethiopian Forces Reported

EA072316 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali to Western Somalia 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The gallant fighters of the Western Somali Liberation Front, WSLF, launched a surprise attack on black colonialist Abyssinian forces stationed at (Habala Jano) in El Kere District at the end of November. The intrepid WSLF fighters burnt out two military vehicles and all on board. The gallant WSLF fighters also destroyed a very large quantity of military equipment. Moreover, on 29 November, WSFL fighters engaged black colonialist Abyssinian forces in a bitter fight between Gherigoan and (Taigom). The gallant fighters killed many soldiers and wounded a number of others. They also burnt out an APC and all the soldiers it was carrying. The black colonialist Abyssinian troops killed nine innocent civilians in a reprisal attack in the area. They also harassed, oppressed, and massacred local civilians.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bokassa Said Ready To Return To Be Tried

AB061851 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Meulan, France, Dec 6 (AFP) — Former Central African Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa said today he was ready to return home "to be tried" if he was not allowed to stay in France.

"I was not thrown out by the Central African people, I was overthrown by Giscard", he said in a reference to his 1979 ousting by his cousin David Dacko aided by the French Government of Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

After his removal he was sentenced to death in his absence by a Bangui court for a series of alleged crimes, including murder, cannibalism, embezzlement, plotting against state security and assaults on individual freedom, and an international arrest warrant was issued.

Wearing a dark blue suit with a high collar, the ex-emperor was speaking in his chateau near this town west of Paris. He arrived there late Sunday after apparently being told to leave his exile home in Ivory Coast by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny following an unsuccessful attempt to return to Bangui.

His eldest son Georges, who was once expelled by his father, and his French adviser Roger Delpey assisted at the interview. From time to time one of the 15 children who came with him (Mr. Bokassa denied reports that he had brought a score of women from Ivory Coast) stuck his head round the door then withdrew.

CHAD

National Front Chairman on Settlement Proposal

JN071156 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena Dec, 7 (SUNA) — A four point blueprint for settling the Chadian conflict hinged on disbanding of the eleven Chadian fronts has been drafted by the secretary general and chairman of the higher Committee for Chadian National Liberation Front (Frolena basic), Babiker Ismail Kampo said here.

In an interview with SUDAN NEWS AGENCY SUNA correspondent here, Mr Kampo disclosed that the new initiative accented the abolishment of the Chadian fronts because the fronts have deepened the conflicts so banning of the fronts will help fastening national unity and dash foreign intervention menace, he added.

Secondly the plan stated the upholding of the current government led by President Hissein Habre as legitimate government to close the door before colonial conspiracy and embedding national unity Mr Kampo said.

The blueprint also stipulated a call by President Habre's government for holding a round table conference for reconciliation.

Fourthly the proposals called for a Libyan withdrawal from north Chad and inviting of African peacekeeping force, he explained.

Kampo called on the friendly states to support the Chadian people and their legitimate government. He also called on the Organization of African Unity to hold its full responsibility towards Chad.

Kampo called on the Chadian peoples to be cautious and vigilant in countering the enemy of the people and the country.

In an interview with SUNA Kampo expressed thanks and gratitude to the Sudanese Government and people for their support to the Chadian people and its legitimate government.

Mr Kampo, Frolena basic chairman, admitted that his front has decided to stand with the legitimate government of President Habre as a national power in the country. Our backing for President Hissein Habre's government stems from sacred responsibility which committed itself for in the context of liquidating colonialism and its clients in the country' he said. We will back Mr Habre's government as far as it struggles for the faith of preserving the unity of the Chadian people and their just cause he added.

Kampo expressed strongly his condemnation of the Libyan intereference in Chad. He said Al-Qadhdhafi is not more than a tool serving the Soviets interests in Africa. Kampo stated that Al-Qadhdhafi supports Goukouni Oueddei in a hopeless attempt to destroy the legitimate government and to deepen discord an divisions among the Chadian people. Al-Qadhdhafi aims at turning the Chad strategic position into a theatre of his coming operations to blast the African states regimes security and their destabilization of African peoples he said.

The Chadian issue in our point of view is of double and correlated issues: The first dealt with the Chadians in and outside the country while the second concerns the border dispute with Libya he explained. The first part would be settled through a round table conference for all Chadian factions while the second could be solved through the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Kampo said.

Finally Mr Kampo told SUNA that settling the issue by military option will not be ultimate settlement but an interim one. Only peaceful solution through national reconciliation will be the sound and lasting solution he emphasized.

Goukouni Discusses Proposed Addis Ababa Meeting

AB081105 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Interview granted to Radio Bardai by Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad; date and place not given — recorded]

[Summary] [Unidentified reporter] Comrade President, the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] recently published a communique reaffirming its readiness to meet with the

FAN on 21 December 1983. "Have you received any new information concerning the diplomatic efforts being made by the OAU?"

[Goukouni] "Yes, we have been contacted by an OAU delegation made up of the Ethiopian foreign minister and the acting secretary general of the OAU, Peter Onu." We had a long discussion with this delegation which delivered to us an invitation from the current chairman of the OAU. We were asked to go to Addis Ababa to hold discussions with all the factions which signed the Lagos Accords. "We are ready to send a government delegation to the meeting. As you know very well, the GUNT is the legitimate government of Chad because it emanated from the Lagos Accords." It is the only government which will be represented at the Addis Ababa meeting. "We consider the other party an usurper because it is merely one of the factions that signed the Lagos Accords." We explained this to the OAU delegation. "About new developments concerning the forthcoming meeting, we have not received any information about any change. This was, in short, what happened between us and the OAU delegation."

[Reporter] "Comrade President, apart from the OAU mission, countries such as Nigeria and Gabon — to mention only these — have proposed their capitals for a venue for a national reconciliation meeting. Could you confirm these offers and could you tell us the position of the GUNT, of which you are the president?"

[Goukouni] "Yes, a number of countries like Nigeria and Gabon have offered to mediate between us and the FAN." The French Government and the Mauritanian and Congolese presidents have also offered their mediation in order to try to bring the two sides closer. "Recently, the French suggested that a meeting be held between Chadians in Paris or in an African capital but up until now nothing more has been said about this." As for the proposed Addis Ababa meeting, we have informed the OAU that we are ready to attend it in order to meet with all the signatories of the Lagos Accords. "We are completely prepared to study ways of reaching an understanding between Chadians."

[Reporter] "Comrade President, we have learned through the press that the Ndjamena group has asked for the postponement of the 21 December meeting. Could you comment on this?"

[Goukouni] "Yes, I have learned through the press that the Ndjamena group has asked for the postponement of the 21 December meeting. According to the Ndjamena group, this date is too early and they are not in a position to attend the meeting." As far as we are concerned, the date of 21 December still stands and we are ready to attend the meeting.

"I think that the attitude of the Ndjamena group is designed to hide a number of things." For example, they may be trying to delay the negotiation between Chadians. They must also have some other intentions.

[Reporter] According to some press reports, the Ndjamena group has declared that it wants to meet with all of the various Chadian factions and the GUNT. Comrade President, what do you think about this?

[Goukouni] They are certainly trying to create difficulties so that we may refuse to attend the meeting. "As far as we are concerned, we are determined to find a solution either through the use of arms or through negotiations in order that the Chadian people both inside and outside the country may recover complete freedom." "We are inside the country, we have an army, and we are in a position of strength."

[Reporter] Comrade President, we have received reports that there are strong concentrations of rival troops at Abeche and Moussoro preparing to attack the positions of the National Liberation Army. If the enemy puts into execution its diabolical plan, what consequences would this have on the current attempt to start negotiations? On the other hand, don't you think that France — which has promised to ensure that success of the negotiations — will have a great part of the responsibility in any attempt of sabotage by the FAN?

[Goukouni] Yes, we have heard that there have been troop concentrations in some parts of the country. We have also heard that American and Israeli experts have been arriving in Ndjamena to try to prepare an attack on the northern part of the country. "If they try to launch an attack against the north, I am convinced that they will fail because we are prepared for them." We have no intention of endangering the current peace initiatives. If the FAN launches an attack, I think the French Government will be partly responsible. [end recording]

CONGO

Ministers Receive Angolan Envoy in Brazzaville

MB081001 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Agostinho Neto, our country's ambassador to the People's Republic of the Congo, was received in Brazzaville yesterday by the ministers of cooperation and information of that country, Colonel Yoka and Daniel Abibi respectively. During the meeting the Angolan diplomat referred to the existing links of friendship between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Congolese Labor Party, which have been forged during our struggle of national liberation. He also referred to the present situation of our country in view of the aggressiveness of the racist Pretoria regime.

GABON

French Presidential Adviser Pays Brief Visit

AB071950 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Guy Penne, adviser to the French president on African affairs, made a technical stopover yesterday in Libreville, the Gabonese capital. In the Gabonese capital, Mr Guy Penne was received in audience by the president of the republic with whom he reviewed relations between Libreville and Paris. It must be mentioned that the French diplomat left Libreville today for Luanda where he will stay for 48 hours.

ZAIRE

CNM Rejects Negotiation With Government Proposal

AB061100 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] There are profound differences of opinion within Zairian opposition circles on how to overthrow Mobutu's regime. Some movements opposed to President Mobutu's regime haveexpressed their disagreement over the proposal for a roundtable meeting between the opposition and the Zairian Government made by Nguza Karl I Bond, former prime minister and leader of the Congolese Front for the Restoration of Democracy, now living in exile in Brussels. One of those movements is the Congolese National Movement [CNM], which has stressed that it will never take part in any negotiation. The movement wonders if Nguza Karl I Bond's proposal is not an attempt to weaken the opposition. The CNM, led by Paul Roger Mukede, reaffirmed its determination to continue fighting against Field Marshal Mobutu's regime until it is completely overthrown.

LIBERIA

5 Arrested as Part of 'Alleged Plot' Released

AB071758 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Reports say five persons who were arrested in connection with the alleged coup plot last month to topple the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government have been released, the *DAILY OBSERVER* yesterday's issue quoted reliable sources. Those released include the mother of former Armed Forces Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa, Madam Menko Gay, Miss Richard Miller, the alleged girlfriend of Colonel John Nuah.

Others released are the aunt of Thomas Quiwonkpa, Mrs Namomi Davis, Madam Kuman, driver of one of the taxis used in the Yekekpa raid, and Solo Fofana, the driver of the wife of former Nimba County Superintendent Joseph Fongalo.

NIGERIA

Perez de Cuellar To Pay 3-Day Visit in January

AB071920 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The UN secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, is to pay a 3-day official visit to Nigeria beginning from 23 January. Mr Perez announced this while receiving the credentials of Nigeria's new permanent representative to the United Nations, Prof Ishaya Audu.

Papers Comment on Gowon, Cameroon 'Invasion'

AB071350 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] *THE PUNCH*, the *SKETCH*, and the *NIGERIAN TRIBUNE* welcome the former head of state, Mr Yakubu Gowon, back home after 8 years' stay in Britain. In its own contribution, *THE PUNCH* explains that [words indistinct] more enthusiastic. *THE PUNCH* wishes Gowon a pleasant stay back home.

The *SKETCH* disagrees with the explanation of the Nigerian Security Organization regarding the welcome program of Mr Gowon. The The paper is of the view that as a former head of state, he should be allowed to visit all states in the Federation.

The *TRIBUNE*, in welcoming him, advises him to study the political situation in the country before entering into politics.

The *SATELLITE* in its editorial condemns Cameroon's invasion of some Nigerian villages in the Cross River State. The paper recalls that some neighboring countries have taken advantage of Nigeria's good relations by attacking inhabitants of her villages. The *SATELLITE* urges the Federal Government to look into the issue with the urgency it deserves.

PUNCH: Libyan Embassy Recruits 'Mercenaries'

AB071815 Paris AFP in French 1437 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, 7 Dec (AFP) — The independent Nigerian daily *PUNCH* asserted on Wednesday that Libya uses its embassy in Nigeria to recruit foreign mercenaries, who are then given military training in Libya.

According to the daily, the recruits, who are mainly illegal immigrants in Nigeria, are sent to Libya aboard Aeroflot planes. This recruiting procedure, which is aimed primarily at the large numbers of Ghanaians in Nigeria, allegedly began 2 months ago. The recruits are sent to Tripoli aboard the Soviet airline's weekly Sunday flight.

The paper states that the majority of the recruits do not have passports and must receive 6 months of military training before being deployed in Chad. The daily pointed out that recruiting is conducted by two Libyans who arrived in Nigeria roughly 2 months ago. Several hundreds of non-Nigerians have been recruited, according to the paper's correspondent, who even attempted to enlist himself, but was temporarily rejected on the grounds that last Sunday's flight was "already full."

The recruiting centers — two of them — are, according to the journalist, located in the popular districts of the Nigerian capital and are directed by Ghanaians who "interview" their fellow countrymen.

The reporter noted that he was told a passport was not necessary, and that all he needed were three identity photos. "The Libyan Embassy will give you a group visa," the recruiting agent said.

The pay offered was said to be attractive. Recruits were told that during their military training they would be taught carpentery and tailoring [as received] and that they would receive their salaries in foreign currency. Some spending money was also promised.

Libya, whose leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, paid an official visit to Nigeria at the beginning of 1983, had been accused in 1982 of attempting to overthrow the Nigerian Government. In addition, sources close to the Chadian Government have recently charged Libya with using its embassies, particularly the one in Benin, as centers for recruiting soldiers or members of the "Islamic Legion," who are helping Goukouni Oueddei occupy part of Chad.

UPPER VOLTA

Agreements Signed With French Aid Fund

AB062218 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Three financial agreements and one draft accord worth some 384,531,000 CFA francs were signed this afternoon at the

Ministry of Planning and Cooperation by our country and representatives from the Aid and Cooperation Fund. This substantial sum of money will help in the realization of four projects. The first deals with exploitation of the Garem and Gourouga gold mines. The second concerns the rehabilitation of the Ouahigouya hospital, more specifically, providing it with complementary X-ray and laboratory equipment. Also included in this same program is the supply of opthomological equipment to the Bobo Dioulassou Hospital. The third agreement will help finance the fourth stage of the Young Farmers Training Program, FJA. Lastly, the draft agreement will provide equipment to Photovol taic, including a black and white television and (?5) sets of studio lighting equipment.

These three agreements and the draft were signed this afternoon at the Ministry of Planning. Upper Volta was represented at the signing ceremony by Comrade Talata Eugene Dondasse, minister of planning and cooperation, while the French side was represented by Jean (Moulet), the officer in charge of the French cooperation mission.

ANGOLA

Jorge Meets With French Presidential Adviser

MB080956 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Paulo Jorge began talks in Luanda yesterday afternoon with Guy Penne, adviser to the French president on African affairs. Guy Penne, who arrived early yesterday afternoon on a 2-day official visit, will meet with Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento and will also hold talks this morning with banking officials. The visit by the adviser to the French president is designed to study the possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the Angolan and French Governments.

AFP: UNITA Claims 87 Angolans, 5 Cubans Killed

AB071655 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 7 (AFP) — Rebel UNITA forces in Angola today claimed to have killed 87 government soldiers and five Cubans in operations in seven provinces since the beginning of the month.

In a statement here, UNITA — the Union for the Total Independence of Angola — also said it had captured three Angolan Army officers and destroyed three armoured cars.

The statement also mentioned an attack on the farm of a man of German origin, identified as Walter Krooger, in the Mumbundo-Massangano region of Luanda Province.

Ten government soldiers who had been guarding the farm were killed and the German was ordered to leave the region, the UNITA statement said.

MOZAMBIQUE

Bomb Explosion in Maputo Injures 2 Refugees

MB071423 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] An explosive device exploded at dawn today in the Xipamanine residential area of Maputo, totally destroying a residence and injuring its two occupants. The explosion took place at about 0300 today inside a wooden and galvanized metal sheet house inhabited by two South African refugees. According to statements made to the Mozambique news agency, AIM, by the two refugees who are now hospitalized the explosion took place while both of them were sleeping.

Meanwhile, a doctor at the Maputo central hospital has said that their condition does not cause concern and that they have been transferred from the intensive care unit room to a surgery nursing ward. The Xipamanine residential area in Maputo is heavily inhabited and this morning's explosion caused damage to the neighboring houses. Police and security forces arrived at the spot a few minutes after the explosion and are currently carrying out investigations.

Johannesburg Reports Further Details

MB080729 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A report from Maputo says two South African fugitives were seriously wounded when a bomb destroyed a house in a suburb of the Mozambique capital. The explosion was in the working-class area of Xipamanine. The two victims were badly burned, but a doctor is quoted as saying that they are out of danger. There has been no official statement on the explosion. Security force members are investigating. On October 17 a bomb explosion damaged an information office of the African National Congress, a terrorist organization banned in South Africa. South African commando units carried out the attack to prevent terrorist activities in South Africa.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Condemns Multiparty Conference

MB080922 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 8 Dec 83 p 2

[By Andre Viljoen, *MAIL* Africa Bureau]

[Text] Harare — SWAPO's president, Mr Sam Nujoma, yesterday bitterly condemned the Namibian Multiparty Conference (MPC) as a South African attempt to create a new anti-SWAPO front to replace the collapsed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA].

"Those involved collectively and individually (in the MPC) will certainly go down in history as betrayers and traitors to the cause of genuine freedom and independence of Namibia and its people," he said in an interview in Harare.

Mr Nujoma, who is in Zimbabwe for consultations with the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, rejected outright the MPC's insistence that it was a genuine internal initiative to speed up the South West African independence process.

Before going into its Christmas recess last month, the MPC, which includes the rightwing National Party, the conservative Rehoboth Liberation Front and the moderate 11 ethnic parties of the DTA, gave support "in principle" to the United Nations independence plan, Resolution 435.

It was a "new move by Pretoria to delay the implementation of Resolution 435", Mr Nujoma insisted yesterday.

He said he had reliable information that the MPC, which was launched in October, had been "initiated and funded by the racist Pretoria regime."

"The so-called internal parties are being used by the so-called administrator-general to continue with an attempt to create bantustans in Namibia, but this time in a new form, because it

has brought in other puppet organisations like SWAPO d[emocrats], SWANU, [South West Africa National Union] and other parties with no support whatsoever."

"Pretoria hopes to put up a viable party to oppose SWAPO and create an interim government," he said.

He described last week's Commonwealth summit communique as a "very positive development." The Commonwealth leaders had expressed views on SWA which coincided with those of SWAPO and "above all supported Resolution 435 as the only basis for negotiation."

He was particularly pleased that Britain had rejected the United States' insistence on linking independence with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. He also believed the Australian Government, whose diplomatic support he "greatly appreciated", could be an effective pressure group towards realising a negotiated settlement.

He urged South Africa's industrialised trading partners to support SWAPO's call for total economic sanctions against South Africa and dismissed the recent claim of South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha that sanctions would hurt South Africa's black neighbours most.

While SWAPO supported a negotiated settlement, it had no alternative at present but to intensify the war," he said.

SOUTH AFRICA

AFP: Botha, Machel To Meet in Neutral Country

AB071552 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 7 (AFP) — Mozambican President Samora Machel and South African Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha plan to meet soon in a "neutral" country, a diplomatic source here said today.

The Portuguese Government acted as go-between in setting up the encounter, the source added.

Mr. Machel had said during a visit to Portugal in October that he was prepared to meet the South African premier.

At the end of last month, South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha, while on a European tour which included a visit here, said the prime minister had accepted the idea.

The planned meeting is expected to be finalised when the South African foreign minister returns to Lisbon from London, probably tomorrow.

Mozambican and South African officials have twice met in recent months to try to resolve their differences.

Pretoria supports the anti-communist rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance Movement, and has accused Maputo of helping anti-apartheid guerrillas of the African National Congress.

In a speech in March, President Machel proposed a "peaceful co-existence" pact between the two states.

In Maputo, officials refused to comment on reports that Mozambique and South Africa might soon hold a summit meeting in Cape Verde to discuss tension due to the presence of South African refugees in Mozambique and Pretoria's support for Mozambican anti-government rebels.

High level meetings have taken place in recent months on the archipelago off West Africa between officials from South Africa and Angola, with which Pretoria is also in conflict, and Cape Verde is, like Angola and Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony.

Observers also noted that Mozambican Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano arrived in Tanzania yesterday with a message for President Julius Nyerere, unofficial chairman of the "front-line" grouping of six black southern African state in confrontation with South Africa.

Taiwan Finance Minister Begins 1-Week Visit

MB070943 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0830 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Hsu Li-teh, finance minister of the Republic of China, has arrived in South Africa for discussions on, among other things, bilateral investment possibilities, as well as banking agreements. He was met at Jan Smuts Airport last night by Mr Owen Horwood, his South African counterpart. Mr Hsu Li-teh will spend 1 week in South Africa.

CNA Report on Arrival

OW070441 Taipei CNA in English 0325 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec. 6 (CNA) — The Republic of China's Minister of Finance Hsu Li-teh, accompanied by his wife and a two-man entourage, arrived here Tuesday night from the United States on an eight-day visit to South Africa at the invitation of his South African counterpart, Owen Horwood.

Minister Hsu and his party were greeted at the airport by Minister and Mrs. Horwood, Chinese Ambassador H.K. Yang, Consul General and Mrs. Tu Yuan-fang, Economic Counselor and Mrs. Lee Chih-ying, and other Chinese Embassy and Consulate officials.

At an airport press conference, Minister Hsu said the purpose of his visit is to pay a return visit to Minister Horwood, who visited the Republic of China last year, as well as to pay respects to the Republic of South Africa.

The two ministers disclosed that they will discuss a wide range of topics, including the exchange of technology, the promotion of two-way trade, and the establishment of banking facilities in each others's country. The two officials accompanying Minister Hsu on the visit are Kan Chu-cheng, counselor of the Finance Ministry, and Tai Yen, secretary to Minister Hsu.

Air Force Chief Says USSR Aid Threatens Security

MB080726 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The chief of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Mike Muller, says South Africa will have to strengthen and expand its air defense system in the foreseeable future, in the face of the growing air threat from its neighbors. Gen Muller told our military correspondent in Pretoria that the Soviet Union and its satellite states had been pouring armaments into neighboring black states. The weapons included the advanced Soviet SAM-8 ground-to-air missile, which was a highly mobile and effective rapid reaction system.

He said about 200 MIG fighter jets had been delivered to neighboring states so far, and that of those, about 100 were MIG-21's. Gen Muller said the neighboring states also had, as he put it, an unbelievable number of air defense artillery, including radar-guided systems which were effective and accurate over a short range.

Mozambique, he said, boasted a radar network that provided cover against high flying aircraft as far afield as the eastern Transvaal and northern Natal.

Further on Muller Statement

AB080849 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 8 (AFP) — Growing air force threats from South Africa's neighbours made it clear the country would have to expand and strengthen its air defences, Air Force chief Lieutenant General Mike Muller said here. South Africa's neighbours had over the past three to five years considerably expanded their air fighting capacity with the help of the Soviet Union and its satellite states, he told a recent press briefing here whose details were disclosed Wednesday.

Gen Muller said about 200 Soviet MIG fighter jets had been delivered. At least 100 were MIG 21's which are highly regarded for their fighting capabilities. Radar installations, comprising early warning systems, had also "sprung up like toadstools" along South Africa's borders with between 60 and 70 deployed in southern Angola alone, Gen Muller said.

The importance the Soviet Union attached to gaining control over southern Africa was evident from the deployment of highly mobile and effective SA-8 ground-to-air missiles systems, he said. Longer-range SA-3 missiles had also been deployed in Mozambique and southern Angola at Maputo and Lubango. Southern Africa was, except for the Middle East, the only other area outside the Soviet bloc where this system was deployed.

He added that these missile systems were backed by an "unbelievable number of air defence artillery systems of every calibre, including the radar-guided ZSU-23/4 Shilka, which is very effective and accurate over a short range.

"It is expected that this air threat will be expanded with Soviet support in the future, and it is clear that the South African Defence Force and, particularly, the Air Force will have to keep pace to be able to deter the greater threat in the future," Gen Muller concluded.

Missile Testing Site Development To Begin

MB071643 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of environment affairs and fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, has said the department of community development will start negotiations as soon as possible for the purchasing of the land required for the missile testing site in the southern Cape. Mr Hayward said in a statement that it would, however, not be possible to grant concessions in respect of occupation and usufruct.

He issued the statement after the government had announced that it had accepted the recommendations concerning the site, made by the Haig Committee. Mr Hayward said land acquired for the construction of facilities and the establishment of infrastructure would be proclaimed as nature reserves and incorporated into the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said he would instruct ARMSCOR [Armaments Development and Production Corporation] to go ahead with the establishment of the site and would make sure that the conditions set by the Haig Committee were heeded. It had always been the policy of the defense force and ARMSCOR to strive to practice nature conservation in areas under their control and to do it in collaboration with nature conservation bodies. After hearing expert evidence, the committee had formulated its recommendations in such a way that they would benefit nature conservation to the full.

'Possible Bomb Explosion' Damages Courts

MB072004 Umtata Capital Radio in English 2000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] A possible bomb explosion has damaged the Johannesburg Commissioner's Courts of the Department of Cooperation and Development. That is according to the John Vorster Square Police Headquarters in Johannesburg. Tenders from the Johannesburg Fire Department were at the scene shortly afterwards, but the Fire Services fire officer has so far refused to give details of the fire. He says though, in his words, everthing is going mad at the fire station. No more details are immediately available.

Resettlement of 4,500 More Blacks Planned

MB071400 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Department of Cooperation and Development is busy with negotiations on the resettlement of a further two groups of Transvaal blacks. A spokesman for the department said in Pretoria that about 1,500 people would have to be removed from (Kwa-Ngema) near Piet Retief soon because they were living in the danger area of the projected (Hyshop) dam, which forms part of the Usutu State water scheme. Land to accommodate them had already been made available at Lochiel farms in

KwaNgwane, and south of Babanango, and it was up to them to decide where they wanted to go.

The second group was squatting illegally on the land of the Council for Public Resorts at Badplaas. There were about 3,000 squatters, and they could move to the (Elukwatini) township or the settlement at Heuningklip. On the removal of a group of people from Rooigrond, between Lichtenburg and Mafikeng, the spokesman said the area fell within the borders of Bophuthatswana, and the department of cooperation and development had no control over the people.

LLA Members Acquitted of Charges, To Be Deported

MB071140 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1105 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Bloemfontein, Dec 7, SAPA — Eight members of the Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] were found not guilty on five charges of illegal entry into South Africa and of illegally possessing weapons, when they appeared in the Bethlehem regional court yesterday.

The magistrate, Mr N. Theron, ruled that the men should be placed in the custody of a South African passport control official with a view to deportation.

The eight men apparently crossed the border from Lesotho near Clarens on November 14, and handed themselves over to a South African police patrol. They were in possession of three Russian-made AK-47 rifles and magazines, 1,240 rounds of ammunition, 15 hand grenades, an RPG-7 rocket launcher and 250 grams of plastic explosives.

The court was told that the men were all members of the Lesotho Liberation Army, the military wing of the Basutoland Congress Party.

They said they had been driven to seek refuge in the mountains around Butha-Buthe. On several occasions, they had been pursued by members of the Lesotho Armed Forces and had fled across the border to save their lives.

The court rejected a plea by the defence that the men had reacted to an emergency situation by entering South Africa illegally, but found that they had not done so with the intention of committing unlawful acts in this country.

All the weapons and ammunition the men were carrying have been confiscated by the South African Government. The men may not be identified for fear of reprisals.

SWAZILAND

Prime Minister 'Misquoted' on U.S. Aggression

MB080750 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 8 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The prime minister's office has issued a statement clarifying remarks he made at the airport on his return from the Commonwealth conference in India last week. The prime minister was misquoted as referring to the United States as an aggressor in Grenada.

In fact, the prime minister never alleged aggression by the United States in his statement about Grenada or any other remarks to that effect.

This is the correct version of Prince Bhekimpi's remarks on Grenada:

"We are delighted to hear from the Carribean states themselves that they had made an agreement among themselves that they would come to each other's aid if one of them was under attack from an enemy. It was gratifying to note that whatever action they undertook was the consensus of all the Caribbean states."

On U.S.-Soviet relations he said: "We agreed on most issues which we discussed. We appealed to both the USA and Soviet Union to resume their disarmament talks, instead of each planting missiles nearer home to each other."

The error is regretted.

Bhekimpi Urges Settlement of Namibian Issue

MB071725 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, says it is high time for South Africa and Namibia to come to a conference table to avoid further bloodshed. He expressed his hope that the frontline states will do their best to press all parties concerned towards a peaceful settlement of the Namibian issue.

The prime minister said this during a courtesy call by Tanzanian High Commissioner to Swaziland Mr Ali Mchumo at his office in Mbabane this morning.

The high commissioner passed a message from his country's prime minister, Edward Sokoine, congratulating the prime minister for having been reappointed to the important post to serve another 5-year term. However, Prince Bhekimpi expressed hope that Tanzania, as a member of the frontline states, will take a leading role to bring about an immediate peaceful settlement.

The prime minister said history had shown us the importance of giving peaceful dialogues a priority in solving disputes and cited the example of Zimbabwe's independence. He expressed appreciation for the good friendship existing between the two countries and commended Tanzania for having shown a great interest in the country's developments, including the recent elections. Prince Bhekimpi said he hoped Tanzania will help the country to solve some of its problems.

The British high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr Martin Reith, and the Chinese ambassador to the country, Mr Chou Tung-hua, also called on the prime minister.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Receives Mozambique's Chissano, Message

MB080753 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] President Kaunda today highly commended Mozambicans for their revolutionary spirit in the fight to liberate southern Africa and other parts of the world from oppression. Dr Kaunda said Zambia appreciates the role Mozambique was playing under the dynamic leadership of President Samora Machel and the revolutionary Frelimo Party. The state president was speaking at State House when he received a message of solidarity from the Mozambican leader, presented by that country's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, this evening.

Mundia Cited on Uranium, Coal Exploration

MB070928 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia says Zambia will soon be on the threshold of entering the large-scale exploration of nuclear power. Officially opening a seminar on exploration and economic geology of coal and uranium at Mulungushi Hall today, Mr Mundia said Zambia had granted prospecting rights to four international companies since 1970 to date. He named the companies as (Argetspar) of Italy, [name indistinct] and Nuclear Explorations from Japan, as well as (Garbet Idterplan) from Australia. Mr Mundia said as a result of explorations by the four companies, Zambia would in the near future enter the large-scale exploration of nuclear power material. The four companies had discovered deposits of uranium in the lower (Rond) subregion of the Katanga system, (Siyavonga), and (Mwangwa). The prime minister also announced that investigations by the geological department indicated the presence of additional coal deposits around Gembe, Luena valley, Luangwa valley, and the [words indistinct].

Apathy in Debates Marks Reopening of Parliament

MB070901 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Apathy among most backbenchers characterized debates on President Kaunda's opening speech as parliament resumed debating yesterday after it had adjourned on 11 November. There was almost unprecedented lack of enthusiasm among backbenchers, particularly new members, to contribute to the motion that the thanks of the house be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in Dr Kaunda's address. The motion was moved by member of parliament for Katete south, Mr Joseph Mbewe, and was seconded by member for Mongu, Mr Sipalo.

Contributing to the debate, member of parliament for Kabwata, Mr Michael Sata, called for flexibility in granting import licenses for importers that do not need foreign exchange and in the regulations on applications for air tickets for traveling abroad. Mr Sata said in some cases it has been easier for an importer requiring foreign exchange to obtain an import license than for an importer who does not need convertible currency. On the applications for air tickets, Mr Sata said the procedure is long and cumbersome, adding that it had not achieved what it was intended to. He said Zambia Airways should be exempted from the procedure, as its tickets are bought in the local currency and it does not need money abroad.

Member for Kafue, Mr Francis Matanda, called on the government to recognize the importance of the informal sector in the economy, and said the people involved in this sector should not be harassed by the authorities. He said the informal sector should be recognized, as it offers some means of livelihood to citizens who the slowly expanding formal sector cannot absorb.

Member for Nsanzala, Mr Clemens Mwanza, said he was failing in his constituency, adding that a number of children had starved to death in the area. Mr Mwanza appealed to the government to take emergency measures to deliver food supplies to the constituency, including other areas of the Luangwa valley.

ZIMBABWE

Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives From Zambia

MB080830 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A Soviet trade delegation is in Zimbabwe to discuss possible fields of cooperation. According to a Soviet Embassy spokesman in Harare, the delegation, which arrived in the capital from Zambia, is composed of three members of the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

AFP on Visit

AB072056 Paris AFP in French 1548 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Harare, 7 Dec (AFP) — The first Soviet trade delegation to visit Zimbabwe arrived in Harare on Wednesday from Zambia.

According to a spokesman from the Soviet Embassy, the delegation comprises three members from the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

A women's delegation led by the Minister of Social Security, [title as heard] Mrs Sayyera Sultanova, recently visited Zimbabwe upon the invitation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Economic and political relations between the countries are not yet developed. Most of Zimbabwe's trade is conducted with Western countries, which give considerable aid, and with South Africa.

Relations between the governments of both countries are considered by observers to be lukewarm though they are heading towards improvement. The prime minister, Robert Mugabe, for a long time bore a grudge against Moscow for the exclusive support given to Joshua Nkomo's nationalist movement, the ZAPU, during the Rhodesian war and the neglect shown his own party, the ZANU.

According to Zimbabwean sources, Mr Mugabe's visit to the USSR which was scheduled for this year was rescheduled several times at the request of the Russians. One of the reasons for rescheduling the visit to 1984 is allegedly the health of President Yuriy Andropov.

Meanwhile, relations between the ruling ZANU party and the Soviet Communist Party are being strengthened in view of recent frequent visits to Moscow by ZANU ministers.

Mugabe Assures Fair Distribution of Land

MB080828 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has assured the nation that the government is taking corrective measures to ensure a fair distribution of land in Zimbabwe. Speaking in parliament during his question-and-answer session today, Comrade Mugabe said the government is aware that theprevious colonial regime gave the majority in the country poor land in the so-called reserves, while the white minority population occupied fertile land. Comrade Mugabe also expressed satisfaction at the performance of most workers committees in the country. He said he believes that the committees are doing good work in the promotion of good labor relations.

Unions To Instill 'Socialist Consciousness'

MB070803 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU] is restructuring unions to instill a socialist consciousness into workers through education. This was revealed by ZCTU in a paper presented to a 5-day seminar organized by the Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies in Harare yesterday. The paper emphasized that the weakness and fragmentation of unions in Zimbabwe must be overcome to bolster the workers' self-reliance and responsibility. It added that the entire education system for unions must emphasize involvement and commitment in the development of the people collectively, rather than individually.